

## Discover the New You:

### A New Foundation

A true church holds fast to the faith which it has received. It does not forget the teaching about Christ which it has been taught. St. Paul is clear the only lasting and stable foundation for life is Jesus Christ.



**Colossians 1:28—2:23** We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me. I want you to know how much I am struggling for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally. My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments. For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how orderly you are and how firm your faith in Christ is. So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ. For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority. In him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ, having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ. Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you for the prize. Such a person goes into great detail about what he has seen, and his unspiritual mind puffs him up with idle notions. He has lost connection with the Head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow. Since you died with Christ to the basic principles of this world, why, as though you still belonged to it, do you submit to its rules: "Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!"? These are all destined to perish with use, because they are based on human commands and teachings. Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.

## Reflections

We've all heard the story of the three little pigs. One builds a house of straw, one builds a house of sticks, and the third builds a house of bricks. The wolf blows down the house of straw and the house of sticks. Fortunately the pigs were able to escape to the house of bricks which was strong and secure. The wolf tried, but he was not able to blow it down.

One moral of this story is – our building materials matter. Jesus gave a warning for all people to be sure that the house of their life was built on a strong and secure foundation. If the foundation was weak, even the strongest house would come crashing down. (*Matthew 7:24-27*).

Foundations built on false teachings are like houses built with straw and sticks. Paul described some ways to recognize false teachings in his letter.

- The teaching was set forth as philosophy based on tradition. Paul said it had its origins in human traditions and the powers of evil. (*v. 2:8*)
- The teaching undermined the centrality of Christ to the Christian faith. (*v. 2:9,10*)
- There was a legalistic bent to the teaching. Legalism was a thing of the past. (*v. 2:16, 17*)
- There was also an interest in visions and angels as a way to know God. Christ is the only way to Know God. (*v. 2:18, 19*)

- The teaching encouraged asceticism as beneficial to the Christian life. While the ascetics may have the appearance of wisdom, Paul maintains Christlikeness is the goal of the Christian life not rules for their own sake. (*2:19, 20*)

As followers of Christ we know that our lives are built on the firm foundation of a love relationship with Jesus. However, we can get caught up in religious traditions and legalisms. Don't let doing good things become more important than living in a close relationship with Jesus!

—Mickey Kibler

#### Reference:

Hybels, Bill. Discover the New You - Colossians. Small Group Workbook. 1999

## Readings

### Sunday, April 25

**Colossians 1:28 – 2:23**

**Matthew 7:24-27**

What are some of the foundations on which people try to build their lives?

### Monday, April 26

**Colossians 1:28 – 2:1**

What did you learn about the passion and heart of Paul toward those who were young in their faith? How can his example influence the way you relate to those who are the new followers of Christ?

### Tuesday, April 27

**Colossians 2:2-7**

What do you learn from this passage about Jesus Christ as the foundation for your life ?

### Wednesday, April 28

**Colossians 2:8**

Read this verse as if it is a warning sign posted with bold letters for every follower of Christ to see. What is the content and purpose of this warning sign? How will you apply this warning to your life?

### Thursday, April 29

**Colossians 2:8**

What is one philosophy, tradition, or principle that had you captive, but Jesus Christ has set you free from its power?

### Friday, April 30

**Colossians 2:16-23**

What is the difference between being religious and being a follower of Christ?

### Saturday, May 1

**Colossians 2:16-23**

What are some of the religious practices or traditions that can give people a false sense of security?

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