

Rooted and built up

Colossians

Study 4 *Colossians 2:8-23*

Talkabout

1. What kind of ideas spring to mind when people use words like “holiness” or “spirituality”?

Read vv 8-15

2. In what ways is the message of Christ different from the “hollow and deceptive philosophy” that Paul describes in verse 8?
3. What was the purpose of circumcision, according to Genesis 17:9-14? So what does Paul mean by the “circumcision done by Christ” (v11)?
4. Which three enemies are destroyed by Jesus’ death on the cross? (vv13-15) How has this been achieved?
5. What is so potentially attractive about the religious alternatives to the message of Christ crucified in verse 8? And how in practice do we guard against being “taken captive” by them?

Read vv16-23

6. Why are the requirements of verse 16 no longer necessary?
7. How do the law-keeping, religious experiences, and self-denial that Paul mentions in these verses work against gospel growth in the life of the church?
8. What is the difference between the rules that Paul criticises in vv20-23 and the kind of things he says later in the letter e.g. 3:20; 4:1, etc?
9. How do we make sure that rules do not have an inappropriate place in our lives?

For prayer

- Thank God for the freedom from human rules and expectations that we have in Christ.
- Pray for growing confidence in Christ’s finished work on the cross.