

Freedom

KEY VERSES

Colossians 2:6-23

KEY THEMES

Freedom from religion
Freedom to live in Christ

TEACHING NOTES

 **The key to understanding the letter to the Colossians (Colossians 2:6-7)**

 **Don't be taken captive (Colossians 2:8)**

INTRODUCTION INNOCECE CONSCIENCE HUMAN GOVT. PROMISE LAW GRACE

 **The fullness of God in a human body (Colossians 2:9)**

The tension between already and not-yet

 **You are complete in Him (Colossians 2:10)**

Lesson Objective:

To learn to live in the freedom we have in Christ

PERSONAL STUDY**Study 1****Prepare your heart and mind**

Open your time with an expectation for what God is going to show you during this time with Him. Ask Him to help you focus and see what He wants to show you.

**Freedom from rules and religious activity**

We have spent a great deal of time learning that our salvation comes by faith in Jesus' completed work on the cross. But when it comes to living out our Christian life a strange thing often happens. People desire additional security of their salvation and to show others they are really committed to being a Christian. This can lead us into pursuing religious activities for the wrong reasons. If we believe in God's free gift of grace, our salvation is as secure as it is ever going to get. When it comes to living out our new life in Christ we want to do things that will help us grow to become more like Christ. Our motivation for pursuing things like going to church, reading our bibles, or praying should be our love for God and not our attempt to prove how good of a Christian we are.

**Read Colossians 2:6-7**

What work did you have to do to receive your salvation from God?

Notice the two times the action word let is used in verse 7. If you are going to let something happen to you, who does the work? What is your role in this process of letting God grow you?

Write down a couple things that have caused your faith to grow. Reflect on how God used these circumstances in your life.

God knows exactly what to bring into our lives to help us become more like Christ. Our job is to lean on God so that we can have His perspective and help as we respond. By doing this we are letting Him grow our lives more deeply into God.

**Read Colossians 2:8-10**

In these verses Paul is warning the church not to fall into the trap of trying to spiritually advance through following human rules or rituals. He reminds them that in Christ alone is everything we need to live Godly lives. As humans we have strong tendencies to fashion plans and systems we can control.

Remember when Moses went up on the Mt. Sinai to get the Ten Commandments from God. When doubt started to come into their minds the people wanted security. So they went back to their old ways and made an idol they could see and control (Exodus 32:1-10). Why is it so hard for us to trust in God's ability to shape and mold us into Christ's likeness?

What is something difficult or stressful you are facing today? What truths do you know about God that you could place your trust in as you deal with this situation?

*For example: God will never give you more than you can bear (1 Corinthians 10:13)
and He will never leave you alone (Matthew 28:20).*

Prayer time

Begin by thanking God for giving us life in Christ. Ask Him to help you better understand and grow in living out this reality. Ask God to show you where you are not trusting Him to help you deal with the challenges of life.

Study 2

Prepare your heart and mind

Some of the Bible's concepts and truths are hard and you will need the wisdom of the Holy Spirit to understand them. Start today's study time with a prayer asking the Holy Spirit to open your heart and mind to receive the truth that He has for you.



Read Colossians 2:9-10

Our focus is on verse 10, but verse 9 gives us important context. In Session 3, you learned that Jesus Christ is God. Does verse 9 support that truth or not, and if so, how?

Given that the fullness of God lives in Christ and that Christ lives in you (Galatians 2:20), what conclusion can be drawn?



Read Colossians 2:10 again

What does it say about you as a believer?

It says you are complete through Christ. We have everything we need. In this completeness we find our freedom.



Freedom to new life in Christ

**Read Colossians 2:6-7**

Just because we are complete in our union with Christ, it doesn't mean we have reached perfection. Look closely at the words 'continue' and 'let.' What is our part in walking in our freedom?

God wants to nourish the body of believers so that, like it says in Colossians 2:7, we will grow in the truth. Our new life in Christ is like a physical birth in that when we are born we have everything we need to be fully grown adults one day, but without nourishment there will be no growth.

Thinking back to our last few sessions, what are some ways we can 'continue' and 'let' God do the work of nourishing our spiritual bodies?

Allowing God to nourish us through regular connecting with Him is the way to living out our freedom in Christ. Through participating in Equipping the Church, spending time with God in prayer, reading His Word, and meeting with other believers you are letting God nourish you. You are taking steps in exercising your freedom in Christ.

Prayer time

Thank God for the incredible gift of new life in Christ. Reflect on the truth that you are complete because of your union with Christ and that you have everything you need. Ask God to nourish you as you continue on your journey and let Him grow you stronger in the truth.

PARENT GUIDE

This week we are exploring a very important topic in the life of a believer, freedom. Too often we are presented with this topic and we quickly brush it off thinking we have it all figured out. The truth is that this is a topic that deserves more attention because unknowingly we give our freedom away. Take time and talk about this topic with your children. Here are a few questions and statements to help get the conversation started.

Table Talk

How would you explain the word freedom?

What are some things that you could possibly take away your freedom?

Read Colossians 2:8 and 20 out loud together.

What are the instructions in these verses?

What is the point of staying away from things that have the potential to take away our freedom?

How can we be more aware of things that might steal our freedom?

Take a moment to share with your children what you have been learning personally about this subject. Give an example from your own life of where you have learned the freedom you have in Christ.

End this time of discussion by praying over your child with this topic in mind.

ADDITIONAL STUDY

Colossians 2:8 says, “*Don’t let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ.*” The ransom that Jesus paid for our freedom from sin also paid for the redemption of our minds. Before our new spiritual birth in Christ, our minds were subject to and ruled by the principals of the world and our flesh. Through the power of Christ’s resurrection we have been freed from the lies of this world’s system and have been given the very mind of Christ. For those Christ has freed, to once again be enslaved by the deceptive philosophy of this world would be a great tragedy indeed.

**Read 1 Corinthians 2**

(Read the whole chapter through 2 or 3 times and then answer the questions.)

What message was Paul preaching?

Who was Paul relying on to reveal the message to his listeners?

Who have we been given that enables us to know the thoughts and mind of God? (Verses 9-12)

What has Jesus’ sacrifice and the Spirit’s power given us? (Verse 16)

Through faith in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and His finished work on the cross, we have access by one Spirit to the mind and heart of God. It is through the power of the Spirit that our minds are renewed and led into all truth day by day. The deep hidden mysteries of Christ have been freely given to those who believe, and we’ve been given the Spirit’s words to explain these spiritual truths.

“Don’t let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ.” (Colossians 2:8)

