



PART 1: INTRODUCTION

Sermon Notes

Text: Colossians 1:1-2

Intro:

Colossians 2:6-7

Colossians is about Christian maturity.

Christians must look nowhere else than Jesus for forgiveness for the past, maturity for the present and hope for the future.

True health for the Christian, just like the plant, is found under the surface.

1. Paul the Apostle

v. 1

Paul was a brilliant theologian, who believed that all of Israel's problems were based on their inability to take the Law seriously. He zealously attacked this new group of Jesus followers until Jesus showed up and redirected his energies for his glory.

Apostle = "one who is sent out"

Jesus sends all his followers out to share the gospel.

2. In Christ & In Colossae

v. 2a

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Colossae was a small, unimportant city; yet, there was a growing church there which had been planted by Epaphras.

"To be described as 'in Christ' and 'in Colosse' is to be located with precision in the purposes of God, and as a member both of his true people and of that particular earthly community where one is called to service and witness" ~N.T. Wright

Jesus prayed the God would keep believers in the world, while protecting them from it. We are "in Christ" and "in Penticton"

John 17:14-19

Christians have made several errors in how they relate to culture:

- i. Separating from culture: "Culture is evil"
- ii. Blending in to culture: "There's nothing wrong with culture"
- iii. Ruling over culture: "We need to be in charge"

"Almost all crimes of Christian history have come about when religion is confused with politics. Politics...allures us to trade away grace for power, a temptation the church has often been unable to resist" ~Philip Yancey

Jesus took a different approach - he redeemed culture.

John 3:17

Galatians 4:4

Redemption means buying something back at a cost.

3. Grace and Peace

v. 2b

"grace" = Paul's way of summarizing all the blessings of God

"peace" = peace of heart and mind regardless of circumstances

Conclusion:

Are you rooted in Christ?

Bethel Church Penticton - Sunday February 26, 2017 - Pastor Dave Funk

Life Group Discussion

Warm up:

1. How do you measure Christian maturity? What are the defining characteristics of a mature Christian? How do you grow in maturity as a Christian?

Study & Discussion:

1. Read Paul's Damascus experience (Acts 9:1-19). What stands out to you? Why would Jesus show up like this for Paul?
2. Read John 17:14-19. What stands out to you about Jesus' prayer? A common Christian saying is that we should be "in the world, but not of the world." What does that mean? Is that what Jesus is saying?
3. Do you see Christians making the cultural errors Pastor Dave mentioned? Which do you think is most common today? Which error would you tend to make? How do you combat that error?

Application:

1. How will you participate in Jesus' work of teeming the world?

Prayer:

1. Pray for wisdom to live as one who is "in Christ" AND "in Penticton"

2. Other Requests

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