In Christ Alone

Kris Emerson · Colossians 2

INTRODUCTION

- All of this hope is only available in Jesus. It is not available in a distorted view of Jesus. It is only found in him and him alone.
- Because if what I believe to be true of Jesus is not the truth, then the hope is false.
- If it is not Jesus, it is not good. It doesn't matter how conservative it is. It doesn't matter how safe it feels.

1 Philosophy and Human Reasoning

Colossians 2:8; 1 Corinthians 1:18–25

- See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.
- When we think our attempts at wisdom are the way you access the Lord, you have made yourself the Lord, and you are not.
- For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God.
- I'm determined to know nothing among you, except Jesus Christ, Him crucified.
- Because when you start figuring things out that aren't on the page, then you've left the page.

2 Mystical Spiritualism

Colossians 2:18–19; Galatians 1:6–9; 2 Peter 1:16–21

- Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, taking his stands on visions he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind.
- And here's what this sounds like today. It sounds like God told me.
- What we do is we take our own thinking and we attribute it to visions, dreams, feelings, ideas that are not of Christ.
- Even if an angel came down and floated up here and stood in front of you and told you something that is contrary to Scripture, he is to be accursed.
- So we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place.
- This is why we need to be daily Bible students, so we don't get caught up in the emotionalism of our own ideas.

3 Sectarian Legalism: We Decide

Colossians 2:16–17; Galatians 5:1; Matthew 15:1–6

- No one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day.
- Things that are a mere shadow of what is to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.
- Sectarianism is we. Legalism, just see the word decide.
- No one speaks for God except God.
- And by this you invalidate the word of God for the sake of your traditions.
- Be careful with the we decide mentality. Who are we?

4 Extreme Conservatism and Self-Abasement

Colossians 2:20–23; 1 Timothy 4:1–5

- If you miss Christ, you've missed Christ.
- The harder you make it on yourself, just the harder you make it on yourself.
- Why do you submit yourself to decrees such as do not handle, do not taste, do not touch?
- If it's something he wants you to do, conservatism is just as much a mistake as unauthorized activity.
- For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with gratitude.
- God is looking for transformation over restrictions.

THE CHALLENGE

Will you make it about him tonight? Just about him. Why should you respond to the invitation? Answer that question starting with the word Jesus.

MY NOTES