

NWMC - Helping Men Grow in Christ

Colossians 2 -3 "Knowing who I am as a man".

Review

Col. 1.27-29 The Scriptural text for the mission of NWMC.

God's plan for mankind = Jesus

2.2full confidence because they have complete understanding of God's secret plan, which is

Christ Himself.

- "20 Verses that Define Mature Manhood" - is this the definition of Biblical manhood? (Maturity.com, 2015/02/17)
- How much do we really understand the secret? (1.27) Do we really know the reality of the indwelling Christ or are we still trying to be like Him?
- How much do we understand the secret plan? Jesus! Or are we still suffering from the "Jesus Deficit Disorder"?

2.3 ...in Him are hidden all the treasures...

He is the key, the answer to everything. What question do you have? Jesus is the answer.

Jesus IS the way to live

2.5....living as you should..

- How did the Colossians figure out how to live like "Christ-ians"? Who was their teacher? What Bible did they have? What "laws" did they have?
- Have you figured out that much of what Paul writes about in his letters is "descriptive"? i.e. what already exists or is true about the Christian way of life?
- How much of their behavior was based on their "strong faith in Christ"?

2.6 ...continue to live in obedience to Him.

- The summation of the Christian life = just obey Jesus. He doesn't say obey the law, the Word or the Bible. Many have made the same mistake that the Pharisees made, making the letter more important than the Spirit. The Bible has its place, to back up Jesus, not replace Him.
- It's said, "But the Bible is His Word". Yes, but is "cutting off your hand" what Christ is telling you to do?

You received Christ Jesus, the Master; now live him.(MSG)

- Which life are you living, yours or His?
- Are you living some words or a person?

2.7..let your roots grow down into Him drawing up nourishment from Him...

Where does the substance of your life come from? What is the foundation of your being?

Jesus is all that man needs

2.8 ..lead you astray...

- What comes from Jesus and what does not? Many have accepted the teaching of "Christ plus". He saved us but left us with a set of beliefs to live by. A LifeWay survey found 56% of evangelical Christians believe that they must contribute their own effort

for personal salvation. (Andrew Farley, "Contributing to Personal Salvation", Patheos Blog, 2/16/15.)

- Watch the focus of most men's curricula - on man not Christ; how to improve as a man instead of simply learning Christ. Don't strive to be a better man, but to know Jesus better.

2.10...*you are complete*....

God says you are perfect even though you may not feel it or know it.

2.12...*you were buried with Christ and with Him you were raised*...

Baptism is not just a "sign of an inward work" but of an identification. You are claiming His past, present and future.

2.13 ..*God made you alive* ...

You are alive because He is alive.

2.16 ...*so don't let anyone*....

- Man is great about setting up rules - religion. Rules and effort apply only to the old life.
- You can't improve on something that is dead!

2.20 ...*they have no effect*...

We can't manage sin, rather, chose to be who God says we are.

Jesus is your REAL life

3.1 *Since you have been raised....set your sights*...

Start thinking about your "Jesus life". The more you dwell on that life the more you will be acting it out.

3.3 ...*your real life is hidden with Christ*...

Wherever Jesus is, your there as well. The reverse is also true.

3.4 ...*who is your real life*..

This is who you really are. Don't try to be someone you already are. Just act on this reality.

3.5 *So put to death*...

How do you handle something that is already declared dead? What is it that still lives? The flesh. Choose to not give it any place. Treat it like it is - dead!

3.10 *In its place*....

Learn about this new nature which is Jesus. The simple plan for spiritual maturity is to just learn Jesus.

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