

## **Thursday**

Which of these comments do you most identify with?

1. I'm over-eager to go to the latest conferences or get the latest books. I don't want to miss a single trend in Christian teaching!
2. I fear I may lose favor with God if I miss church or my daily devotion time.
3. I chase the "God buzz", a sense of euphoria. My spiritual life centers on it.
4. I repeatedly make promises to God that I'll never again, and I even set up obstacles to doing it again, but somehow I fall anyway.

If you checked number one, you may be in danger of the first "freedom killer". Reread Colossians 2:9–10.

If you checked number two you may find yourself falling into the "freedom killer" of man-made religion. You need to remind yourself of Paul's words in Colossians 2:13–15.

If you checked number three you may be in danger of glorifying your own sensations. Remember to see the Giver, not the gift! Reread Col. 2:18,19.

If you checked number four you have discovered what Paul talks about in Colossians 2:20–23. Reread that passage and the first two verses of chapter 3 for Paul's solution!

Ask God to help you retain a simple and clear devotion to Jesus.

## **Friday**

Please read Ephesians 3:14–21. Paul prays that the Ephesian Christians will understand all the wonderful things God has given them. In your own words, what does he mention specifically?

Which of these things do you most need to focus on more often?

Today read through Paul's prayer again and make it a prayer for yourself and our church!

## **Saturday**

Please read through Colossians 2 again. What stands out to you most today?

Please pray for the services for this weekend.



PART 3

# ...FROM SPIRITUAL. SLAVERY

FEBRUARY 18 & 19, 2012 • RENÉ SCHLAEPFER

See to it that no one takes you captive ... *Colossians 2:8*

### **Review of Colossians so far...**

The belief system of the Colossians emphasized:

Learn \_\_\_\_\_

Do \_\_\_\_\_

Experience \_\_\_\_\_

Give up \_\_\_\_\_

Their key word was \_\_\_\_\_ !

In answer, Paul reminds them Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ !

### **4 Religious Freedom Killers for Christians:**

#### **1. Christ plus \_\_\_\_\_**

See to it that no one takes you captive through **hollow and deceptive philosophy**, which depends on **human tradition** and the **basic principles of this world** rather than on Christ. *Colossians 2:8*

**THE SOLUTION: Remember I have all I need in \_\_\_\_\_**

For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and **you have been given fullness in Christ**, who is the head over every power and authority. *Colossians 2:9–10*

## Daily Meditations

### 2. Christ plus \_\_\_\_\_

Therefore do not let anyone **judge** you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in **Christ**. *Colossians 2:16–17*

#### THE SOLUTION: Refocus on \_\_\_\_\_

When you were dead in your **sins** and in the **uncircumcision** of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He **forgave us all our sins**, having **canceled the written code, with its regulations**, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. *Colossians 2:13–14*

### 3. Christ plus \_\_\_\_\_

Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you for the prize. Such a person **goes into great detail** about what he has seen, and his **unspiritual mind puffs him up** with idle notions.

*Colossians 2:18*

#### THE SOLUTION:

#### Rest in \_\_\_\_\_, don't strive for \_\_\_\_\_

He has lost connection with the Head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows **as God causes it to grow**. *Colossians 2:19*

### 4. Christ plus \_\_\_\_\_

Since you died with Christ to the basic principles of this world, why, as though you still belonged to it, do you submit to its **rules**: “**Do not** handle! **Do not** taste! **Do not** touch!”? *Colossians 2:20–21*

#### • Legalistic rules don't \_\_\_\_\_

These are all **destined to perish with use**, because they are based on human commands and teachings. *Colossians 2:22*

#### • Legalistic rules don't \_\_\_\_\_

Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but **they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence**. *Colossians 2:23*

#### THE SOLUTION:

#### Focus on the \_\_\_\_\_, not the \_\_\_\_\_ you're trying to avoid!

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, **set your hearts on things above**, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. **Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things**. *Colossians 3:1–2*

#### THE BOTTOM LINE: I have all I need \_\_\_\_\_

### Monday

Please read Colossians chapter 2. What hit home for you in the weekend's message?

Of the four “freedom killers,” to which are you most likely to fall prey?

What is Paul's solution for the “freedom killer” you listed above?

*Thank God today for the freedom offered to you in Christ. Ask God to help you realize the fullness of all the good gifts you have in Christ!*

### Tuesday

This weekend we talked about how faith can become complicated and distracted. Read 2 Corinthians 11:2–4. What is Paul afraid of, according to verse 3?

What sorts of things can complicate your pure and simple devotion to Christ?

What does Paul observe about the Corinthians in verse 4?

Do you tend to be discerning about the spiritual teachings you hear from friends, pastors, authors or radio personalities, or do you tend to believe everything they say? Rate your discernment:

I accept at face value any spiritual claim anyone makes

I accept teachings that give me a good feeling inside

I usually try to compare the teaching I am hearing with the Bible

I always use the Bible as my gauge for truth

Remember, one of the best tools to discern truth is memorized Scripture!

*Thank God today for the Bible. Thank Him for the opportunity to be encouraged by truths you find in the Bible. Ask God for discernment when it comes to counterfeit gospels.*

### Wednesday

This weekend we also talked about how religious tradition can in fact be a substitute for true Christian spirituality. Please read Matthew 23:23–28. What point is Jesus making about the Pharisees' religion?

What sorts of religious issues can distract you from your simple focus on Jesus?

Focusing on my own performance

Trying to impress my pastor, spouse or friends

Becoming prideful about my Bible reading, prayer, church attendance, etc.

Feeling God doesn't like me as much as He would if I did more

Looking down on others who don't do as much as me

Other \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank God today that He loves you and that He knows you. Pray that you'll view prayer, reading the Bible and other spiritual practices as the way to grow your relationship with Him not get Him to love you more.*



Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.  
*Colossians 3:2*