

Colossians 2:6-23

REVIEW

How would you summarize the one big idea of Paul's opening?

Any notes or questions from your reading?

REFLECT

Imagine that spiritual darkness and trouble is like an escape room. There are clues and instructions all around you, only some are valid and some are false. What were their instructions for the Christians trying to escape?

What are Paul's instructions?

Try to identify one-two verses that specifically relates back to Paul's "Big Idea" from the Opening?

STUDY: 2:6-23

"Stoicheo" (2:8 & 2:20) - to place in order, rows/columns, "elements"

1. Elementary letters (abc)
2. Elements of the universe (molecules/basic matter)
3. Elements of knowledge (first principles/logic)
4. Elemental spirits (angels/demons rule the "heavenly" realms, natural religion, astrology)

2:9-10 What does the fullness of God have to do Paul's "Big Idea"

2:8 How does it seem the Gnostic teachers were taking people "captive"?

2:16-23 There are three main -isms that converged into the Christian church at Colossae. Where can you find them in the text, and how would you define them?

Legalism

Mysticism

Asceticism

Do these philosophies are still appealing to Christian churches today? How so? / Do you find any of these three are particularly appealing to you?

How will these approaches shape our worship, fellowship, and prayer together?

When legalism, mysticism, and asceticism become popular, what gets neglected or left out?

On the one hand John the Baptist practiced asceticism, and Jesus advocated for fasting privately. What was it about the Greco-Jewish gnostics that was corrupting the practices of asceticism? Is Paul condemning all such practices as wrong? What is his point here? What is his warning? What is his goal?

2:19 - Wiersbe writes, "The spiritual body grows by nutrition not attrition." What do you think this means?

How does the "substance" of Christ clarify our confusion about these questions?