
The 4 Sales Pitches of Religion

COLOSSIANS 2:6-23

Lean In

1. Did you consider your parents “permissive” or “strict”? Why? (Did they have a lot of rules for you, or just a few? Which was the biggie?)

Look Down

Read Colossians 2:6-23

2. According to v.6-7, how were the Colossians to walk in Christ? How do each of these images help us understand how we should continue to live in Christ? What else can we learn from 1:10-12 in terms of what it means to live in Christ?
3. In verse 8, we get the first real glimpse of the heresy being taught to the Colossians. What are its 3 components?
4. How would Paul's two statements about fullness in Christ (vv. 9-10) protect the Colossians from those deceptive ideas?
5. What kind of circumcision is done by Christ (v.11)? How did he do it (vv.12-15)?
6. What "shadows" were the Colossians adding to the "reality" they had found in Christ (vv. 16-17, 20-23)?
7. What is the result of trying to base one's relationship with God on rule keeping or private visions, as the false teachers were doing?

Look Out

8. What additions to the faith have you encountered from people who try to encourage you to be “more spiritual”?

Look In

9. Silently reread verses 9-15, inserting your name every time Paul says you or us. How do these facts affect your view of yourself?
10. What "shadows" are we tempted to add today? List at least 5. Why do you think so many Christians settle for the traditions of men or even the “shadow” of the Law when they can enjoy the reality of Christ?
11. In what area are you still susceptible to getting caught in rule keeping?
12. How much thought have you given to the Scriptural idea that you died, you were buried, and you were raised with Christ? How do you think this might impact the way you see yourself and the way you approach the Christian life?