

Growth Group Reflection Questions—July 25 - 31

1. Re-read our sermon passage, Colossians 2:6-8. Then ask God for deep insight, and that any “invisible Buckys” that group members are wearing would fall right off.
2. Read Ephesians 5:6 and James 1:16. What do they teach?
3. Spiritual forces manipulate through human religions and philosophies to gain power over people and to keep them in bondage. Where have you seen this to be true?

Follow up: The ancient Jews easily fell into the trap of worshipping material things and the powers behind them. See Deut. 4:19 and discuss.

4. Darren talked about three “philosophical fish” swimming around us that would love to sink their teeth into our minds: Pleasure-ism, Possession-ism, and Prestige-ism. What did you think about that? Are there others swimming around that you can name?

Follow up: Which ones have bitten you before?

5. Even though God especially chose King Saul to be king over Israel, (“*The LORD said, ‘That’s the man I told you about! He will rule my people’*” – 1 Sam. 9:17) he struggled mightily with Prestige-ism. Read 1 Samuel 15:12. What did Saul do and how do people imitate him today to try to fill themselves?
6. An old Christian leader who wrote many books and spoke in many places, used to say the following in his prayers to remember his core identity: “*Who am I, and he responded, ‘I am the one loved by Christ.’*” How do you aim to keep the reality of your “*fullness in Christ*” always in front of you?

Wrapping Up: What did you take away from the message? What verse, point, or story spoke to your heart? Then thank God for the truth of his Word.



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

To steer clear of deception and defeat the devil:

1. Watch out **_Always_** _____!

“Beware.” **Phil. 3:2**

“Be on your guard.” **Mark 13:9**

“Watch out.” **Mark 8:15**

**If we’re not very careful, we will be bitten by sharp-toothed
philosophies _____.**

**The sharp-toothed philosophy that threatened the
Colossians was probably a strange form of
Judaism _____.**

The verb in verse 8 for “take captive” (sulagogeo) is very rare. In fact, here in Colossians 2:8 is the only place that it’s used in the entire New Testament. And, what’s interesting, it’s very close to the word for “synagogue” (sunagoge).

Three Sharp-Toothed Philosophies that Sink Their Teeth in Modern Believers.

- i. Maybe it's **Pleasure** _____ -ism.
- ii. Maybe it's **Possession** _____ -ism.
- iii. Maybe it's **Prestige** _____ -ism.

**Three subspecies of this dangerous fish of Prestige-ism:
Success Fish, Body Fish, Love Fish.**

**2. Remember, you already have what you're
_looking_____ for.**

... you have been given fullness in Christ ...

Colossians 2:10

"fullness" is a perfect passive participle, meaning a completed action with continuing effect.

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

Colossians 2:6 – 7

Big Thought: Meet your **Messiah____. . . ALL OVER AGAIN!**

"Christ, Jesus, Lord"

**Big Truth: We have to "Continue to live in him" with
_other_____ _people_____**
in growth groups, growth groups, growth groups!

(Growth Group hotline: Darren or Diane at 831- 429-1162.)

"Continuing to live in him," means always looking, down, up, forward and backward.

When you're feeling empty – like your assets, accomplishments, or appearance aren't everything you'd want them to be, then smile and say: "Who cares about those things. I AM MY MESSIAH'S, MY MESSIAH IS MINE!"