

Lesson 9

Colossians 2:8-15

Day 1

KEEP IT IN PERSPECTIVE

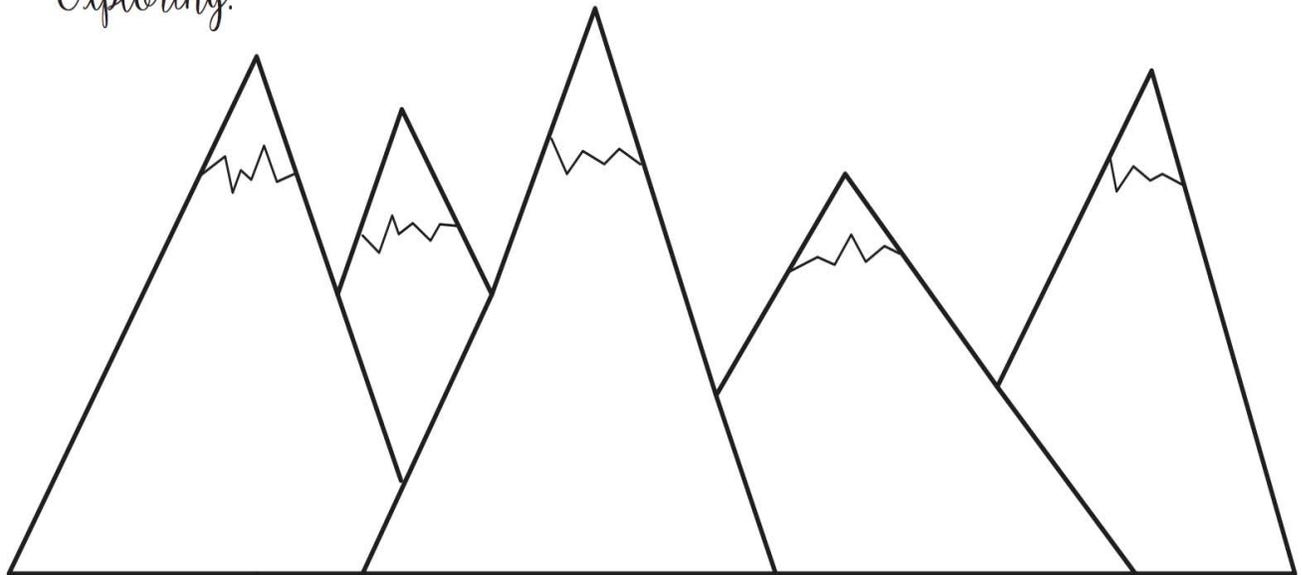
- In the boxes below, explain verses 8-15 in only one or two sentences. Think about how you would explain it to a 10 year old child. I usually ask myself, “Who is doing what, and why is he doing it?” This is usually enough to get the main point of the thought into one or two sentences.

Chapter 2	Verses 1-7	Verses 8-15	Verses 16-19	Verses 20-23
Paragraph explanation	Paul is concerned that they may be deluded away from the wealth that comes from true knowledge in Christ and instructs them to walk in Him as they were originally instructed.			

EXPLORING THE THEME

- Look for the words: DEAD/BURIED (or any DEATH words) Write down the verses where you find these words and what you learn about them.

Exploring:



Day 2

- Remember that Colossians is all about the Worthy Walk (Key verses: Colossians 2:6-7). Paul prays about this Worthy Walk in Colossians 1:3-12. He explains how Jesus has qualified them to walk worthily in Colossians 1:13-23. Now, in chapter 2, Paul is going to express some concern about hindrances to this Worthy Walk.

Read chapter 2 and list these hindrances in the first column and the remedy in the second column:

Hindrance	Remedy
v.4	vv.5-7
v.8	vv. 9-15
v.16	v. 17
v.18	v. 19
v.20-22	v.23

Today, we are just going to think about the hindrance to a worthy walk which is found in verse 8. “Philosophies and deceptions” are simply erroneous ideas about what we think about God and about the stuff on the earth, which affects our daily life, daily practices, and worship. It was same for the Colossians. Living along a popular trade route in the Lycius Valley brought varied people and ideas in all the cities along that route. For the people living at this time there were ideas from the Greeks, Romans, pagans, Jews (Pharisees, Sadducees and Essenes Jews all had their varied opinions), and many others. As you can see in the types of things Paul addressed, one of the philosophies of becoming more spiritual had to do with self-denial or rejecting all things worldly or physical. You may hear these kinds of philosophies referred to as Gnosticism or Asceticism, and elements of these ideas can be found in world philosophies and religions throughout history.

- Look back through the hindrance list. Which ones involve denial of the physical in order to gain more spiritual insight/power? Which ones involve performing a deed or service in order to gain spiritual insight/power?

5. That was then, but what about now? What are some of the tempting worldly philosophies you might find yourself believing? As you list errors in thinking, see if you can come up with a Bible verse/passage that counters that philosophy. You don't have to answer all these, just the ones you know:

- What God is like:

- How Earth was made:

- The nature of people:

- How we decide what is right and what is wrong:

- Love and marriage:

- Eating:

- Parenting:

- How to live longer:

- Others:

6. Review verses 5-6 and 9-15, and write below how it is that we are able to resist being taken captive.

Day 3

7. In 2:11, there is a word picture of something that took place on the physical body that represents what happens to a believer when he/she is saved. In the Bible, God reveals to us spiritual principles through “mere shadows,” which are physical manifestations representing spiritual realities. With circumcision, God first reveals it in a physical picture in the Old Testament. In order to understand the spiritual truth that we are to apply, it is first necessary to look at the dynamics of circumcision as God revealed it in the Old Testament.

Genesis 17:10-14: This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised. You shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you. He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised. Every male throughout your generations, whether born in your house or bought with your money from any foreigner who is not of your offspring, both he who is born in your house and he who is bought with your money, shall surely be circumcised. So shall my covenant be in your flesh an everlasting covenant. Any uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin shall be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant.

- a. What was the purpose of circumcision?
 - b. How was it to be done?
 - c. How long was this covenant to last?
 - d. What was the penalty of not keeping this covenant? Why do you think it was so strict?
8. Did God reveal any further purpose in the physical act of circumcision (Deuteronomy 10:16, 30:6)?
9. Now think about how this spiritual shadow is completed in Christ according to Colossians 2:11.
- a. How were you circumcised?
 - b. What characterized this circumcision?
 - c. What did this process entail?



GROWING IN RESPECT TO SALVATION

10. What is God’s ultimate desire for your heart according to Ezekiel 36:26 and Matthew 22:37? Is this true of you? If not, what areas need to be yielded to God?

Day 4

11. This entry into the New Covenant by the non-physical circumcision of Christ is a wonderful reality. Paul begins to explain it in further detail in Colossians 2:12-15, and what it took for Jesus to accomplish this “stripping away of the flesh.” It is through His death, burial, and resurrection that we understand Christ’s work on our behalf.

Col 2:11-15 ...and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ; (12) having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. (13) When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, (14) having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. (15) When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.

Before you fill in this chart, underline the following words in the above text: God, He, Him

Verse	Jesus’s Part	God’s Part	Believers are...
2:12			
2:13			
2:14			
2:15			

Day 5

12. What victory took place (v.15) at the cross and how was it accomplished according to Colossians 2:12-15?

13. What does this triumph mean for the believer according to Romans 6:1-11?

a. Why was our old self crucified with Christ according to Romans 6:6?

b. What is the benefit for someone who has died with Christ according to Romans 6:7-8?



GROWING IN RESPECT TO SALVATION

14. Think about those areas in your life that seem impossible to have victory over. List them below:

15. Now apply the truth you learned today in reference to God's work through Christ concerning your sin by creating statements of truth that align with scripture. Do this for each item you listed in question 14. Below are examples:

I don't need to be ruled by _____, because I am no longer a slave to sin (Romans 6:6).

I don't need to be continuously bothered over the guilt of _____, because God has forgiven me in Christ (Colossians 2:13).