

COLOSSIANS

ABOVE ALL



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Paul writes to the church at Colossae to show that Jesus Christ is greater than Caesar and what they already have in Christ Jesus is sufficient and supreme. Jesus truly is above all other rulers. His kingdom reign is above all governments. His work is above all other accomplishments. And all who are in Christ can live a life above all that the world offers. And that greater life can be experienced and expressed in everything we do, everywhere, every day.

PART 5: ROOTED IN THE GOSPEL

Read the text: Colossians 2:6-15

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the

record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

In the face of their syncretistic culture and competing beliefs, Paul calls the Colossians to be rooted in Jesus and the Gospel. To be “rooted” means receiving regular spiritual nourishment from Christ in such a way that you bear fruit in all circumstances. He goes on to write to them of some of the results, or benefits, or being rooted in Christ. When they’re rooted in Christ, they will recognize and reject false doctrine, they will receive the power of Christ over evil, and they will receive a guarantee of victory.

Discussion Questions:

These questions are written for DNA groups, but you can use them in any setting, including missional communities. Because they were written for the intimacy of DNA friendships, you may need to adjust for larger groups.

1. Read the definition of “rooted in Christ” above (2nd sentence in the summary paragraph). Do you receive spiritual nourishment from Christ like that? What does that tangibly look like? If not, why do you think that is? (*This question is so important...so spend significant time talking through this.*)
2. Pastor Donald described “false doctrine” not just as wrong theology, but as the lies that our world is constantly calling us to believe. What are some of the lies you hear most often and which are the lies you are most tempted to believe? Focus more on yourself and not the lies you see others believing.
3. How does being “rooted in Christ” as discussed before tangibly help you recognize and reject these lies?

4. What are some rhythms or practices that can help you to be “rooted in Christ”? What can you try this week? How can you support each other in this?