

Intro: Colossians is a very interesting book. I say that because of two truths that work off each other

- First, Colossians is a “*prison epistle*” It was written WHILE Paul was in a Roman prison!
- One of the themes of Colossians is “freedom!” Ironic isn’t it...Message on SPIRITUAL FREEDOM written when the author is PHYSICALLY imprisoned! Chained to a Roman soldier! FREE

THEME FOR TODAY : “*Freedom to live FOR Christ comes from the fullness we find IN Christ!*”

Explain that: The closer we walk with Christ spiritually, the more freedom we find regardless of situation *WHILE Paul is imprisoned, chained, limited: the Gospel is flying around the world: He is Close to Jesus*

In the passage we look at today Paul is talking to the Colossians, and you and I, about Freedom. He does two things primarily.

- Tells us HOW to walk in Freedom (These are the things we HAVE to do...refresher: Forget)
Illus: *Old Pastor talking about being filled w Spirit. My problem isn’t being filled: I LEAK!!!*
- Warns us how to AVOID those thing in our life that will hold us down, limit our growth, service
These are the old patterns of thinking, living and acting that raise their head under pressure!

1. First, Paul Tells us HOW We Are To Live In The Freedom That Jesus Has Given Us. 2:6-8

John 10:10 Jesus told us that He came to give us ABUNDANT life...Life of fullness, joy, peace, Victory

Joh 8:36 *If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.*

And we KNOW that...but we struggle to LIVE that out day by day.

- *We sin: Feel guilty, not Free, we feel bound up, limited, held down and held back*
- *We struggle with circumstances and trials, feel limited not Free, Nothing we can do to go forward*
- *We have relationships go south, Feel burdened, not Free, Wonder how can I get over this*

We KNOW we are supposed to have an abundant life, but we don’t know How to make that REAL!

How can we possible ever be like Paul: Physically, Circumstantially Prisoner: Yet REALLY FREE?

For us today, the question is, how can we be FREE in the midst of all that is happening in pandemic?

How can we be spiritually free when our health is bad, relationships soured, finances in trouble?

- Ch 2:6 Keep Walking the Way that you started! (Just as you received, walk)

DIAGRAM?

Lit=Whatever it was that you DID when you came to know Jesus...Keep doing it as you walk w Him

~**Believe** that He is there: Heb 11:6 “Believe he is, rewards those seeking Him”

~**Acknowledge** you need Him: Lk 18:13 “God have mercy on me a sinner”

~**Put your faith** in Him: Mt 9:6 “Take up your mat and walk.”

~**Live in Hope** of His promise: Rom 8:5 “Hope not disappoint, God poured out HS”

You those are the things we have to do EVERY single day. When you wake up in the morning, and you are facing a day that you just don’t know HOW you are going to get through. You do TODAY what you did on that very first day of your walk with Jesus.

Believe; Acknowledge; Put Your Faith; Live in Hope!

And This is what happens! You will be:

~**Rooted:** Lit = Let your spiritual roots go down deep: Psalm 1

~**Built Up:** Lit = A word for building a house: One step, One board, One Nail: 1 Cor 3:10

~**Strengthened:** Lit = To stand on firm footing Not unstable, Moving, Swaying Psm 40:2

~**Thanksgiving:** Lit = Gratefulness or thankfulness to God!

Key: You have to do every day...what you did the first day! Do that, you are able to find spiritual freedom

Gal 3:3 “*Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort?*”

“Freedom to live FOR Christ comes from the fullness we find IN Christ!”

2. Next, Paul Tells Us WHAT We Need To Avoid To Keep Ourselves Free!

After telling us what we need to do to GET Free...and WALK in Freedom...Warns us: Traps along Way!

Basically he spends the next 15-20 verses saying: WATCH OUT! DANGER AHEAD, BE CAREFUL

Vs 8 "See to it that no one takes you captive..." (Spoil of war, prisoner)

Now, the things that Paul is warning the Colossian church about were specific to them, but many of them still exist for us today. We still have some of the same traps...just a little different form.

5 Dangers to Help You Avoid Being a "Spiritual Captive"

Every single one of these says the same thing: Jesus Is Not Enough! ADD to Him

- An emphasis on man's wisdom, and worldly wisdom rather than God's word vs 8
- A return to former life for what you need rather than dependance on God. Vs 12
- A lack of emphasis on the sufficiency of the Cross *Cross not enough* vs 13-15
- Spirituality without Jesus as Lord! *Jesus not enough* Vs 16-19
- Legalistic lifestyle without dependance on the Spirit *Jesus not enough* Vs 20-23

Paul is SO clear! We have said it with every message about Colossians. Two key themes...

Theme: *The absolute supremacy and sole sufficiency of Jesus Christ*

Nothing plus Jesus = Everything

Everything without Jesus = Nothing

CONCL: So, as we close this morning...let me ask you...How are you doing?

Do you feel like you are walking in the Fulness and Freedom That God has for you today?

Jn 10:10 *I have come that you might have life...and have it more abundantly!*

Joh 8:36 *If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.*

If you aren't there...And we ALL fall into that place of bondage and doubt and struggle sometimes:

Go Back! Go Back to that day when you first believed!

~Believe that He is still there:

~Acknowledge you still need Him:

~Put your faith in Him all over again:

~Live in Hope of His promise: Hold on to it...and don't let it go!

If you feel like you have allowed yourself to buy into one of the dangers...Get Rid of It!

Go back...to Simply faith in Jesus He is all you need!

Those other things will give you a short term fix...but in the long term...they take you spiritually captive

They steal your freedom in Jesus...and they steal the joy and fullness of your relationship with Him

Prayer

Father, the deepest desire of my heart is to walk in the fullness of what it means to be your child today
I confess to you that I have allowed myself to be pulled into the trap of thinking I need something more

Help me today to go back to my first love...my first faith...my first walk with you...and walk that road
again. Help me leave behind all those things that promised freedom...but only brought me bondage.

Fill me with your Spirit...God I confess...I LEAK...but I know you will fill me again...So I can walk
with you. AMEN

- If you need to come pray...sometimes it helps your commitment "Stick"
- IF you want me to pray with you....Im here....love to do that today