



09

COLOSSIANS 2:4-15

ALL ABOUT JESUS



THIS WEEK'S **focus**

We have all been challenged by a coach, parent, or mentor to “finish strong.” Not giving attention to how we wrap up a project or event can make all the difference between success and failure. It won’t matter how hard you played or worked at the beginning if you aren’t committed to seeing things through to the end. This isn’t that different from what Paul told the church at Colossae. After telling them that all the riches of knowledge and wisdom are found in Jesus (Col. 2:3), he challenged them to continue in Jesus. There will be lots of opportunities in life to shift our focus away from Jesus, so Paul challenges us to fight through the distractions and keep our focus on Christ. Jesus is fully God—He is our Savior and King, and we should center our lives on Him.



CENTRAL **truth**

Jesus is fully God—our Savior and King—and we should center our lives on Him.



EXPLORE

scripture

COLOSSIANS 2:4-15

COLOSSIANS 2:4-7

4 I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments. **5** For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in

Christ. **6** Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, **7** rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

COLOSSIANS 2:8-10

8 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. **9** For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, **10** and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.

COLOSSIANS 2:11-15

11 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, **12** 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. **13** 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, **14** by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. **15** He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

DAILY devotions

MEMORIZE COLOSSIANS 2:13

7 ARROWS FOR BIBLE READING



What does this passage say?



What does this passage tell us about God?



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



What does this passage tell us about man?



How does this passage prompt me to pray?



What does this passage demand of me?

day 1

COLOSSIANS 2:4-7

DWELL

The false teachers were preaching ideas that sounded reasonable, but were not based in the truth of who Jesus is, and Paul was concerned that the Colossian church could be swayed by these heretical teachings. He knew that the unity of the church and their spiritual health relied on them staying committed to the truth they had been taught about Christ. Our modern world isn't much different—we are constantly surrounded by alternate views about God, life, and faith. We must always be testing these views against the truth that we find in Scripture and in our knowledge of who Jesus is.



What does it mean to continue to live in Christ, according to Paul?



What are some messages you hear in your life that contradict the teachings of Christ? How can you stay rooted in Him?

MEMORIZE

Write Colossians 2:13 on a sticky note and place it somewhere you'll see it every day, like your bathroom mirror, a notebook, or inside your locker. Read it to yourself each time you see it.

PRAY

Ask God for the strength and wisdom to turn away from competing messages that lead you away from His truth and goodness.

day 2

COLOSSIANS 2:8-10

DWELL

Living in the kingdom of God doesn't always make sense from the perspective of worldly wisdom. Common wisdom from our culture often contradicts Christian teaching, and we will probably all face times that our non-Christian friends give us advice or express opinions that are in direct opposition to the gospel. Paul warns his readers to not give in to teachings that are based in "human tradition" or "the elements of the world"—because unlike those in the world who try to find wisdom through their own efforts, we have a source of true wisdom in Christ.

← What does Paul mean when he warns his readers to not be taken "captive" (v. 8)?

↔ How can we encourage one another to stay committed to the truth of the gospel?

MEMORIZE

Take a slip of paper or index card and draw or write Colossians 2:13 using markers or colored pencils. Use it as a bookmark in one of your text books or notebooks this week.

PRAY

Thank God that, through Christ, we have a trustworthy authority and King.

day 3

COLOSSIANS 2:11-15

DWELL

In these verses, Paul uses terminology related to law and debt that his Jewish listeners would have been very familiar with. He also reminded his readers that through Christ's death, we were given new spiritual life, and through baptism, we represent that new life that Jesus already provided for us: just as Christ died, was buried, and rose again, we go under the baptismal water, which represents the grave. Paul's point is that because of the work Jesus already accomplished on the cross, believers no longer needed to be chained to restrictive Jewish food laws and traditions.

← What is a "record of debt"? What does Paul mean in verse 14?

↪ How should you live your life knowing that Jesus is ruler over all other powers and authorities?

MEMORIZE

Write each word from Colossians 2:13 on a different index card. Mix them up and then place them in order.

PRAY

Thank God for forgiving us our sins and making us new creations through His Son's death.

day 4

GALATIANS 1:6-9

DWELL

False teaching was a common theme in Paul's letters. This shouldn't come as any surprise. The survival of the church depended on strong, committed believers who were well-trained in discerning the difference between the gospel and other teachings that would mislead them. Paul's language in the letter to the Galatians was much more firm than that in Colossians, however. He seems to have been genuinely shocked that the Galatians were following a teaching completely contrary to the gospel, so soon after they had initially accepted Christ. This is a good reminder in our day, too, that having genuine faith is not a one-time action, but requires continual, daily commitment.

↓ What does Paul mean by a "different gospel"? Does he mean there are multiple gospels?

↔ What are some things you can do if you are uncertain if something you've heard about God, Jesus, or faith is true or not?

MEMORIZE

Find a recording of Colossians 2:13 on the web, in a podcast, or on a Bible app. Listen to it every day this week.

PRAY

Thank God that we don't need to doubt His goodness and love is true.

day 5

DEUTERONOMY 4:1-2

DWELL

Moses instructed the Israelites to follow the commands that the Lord had given to him. The statutes and the rules he referred to in verse 1 were elements common to covenants—binding legal agreements. God was making a covenant with His people, and He wanted Moses to be clear on this point. Just like any other binding agreement or contract, they couldn't simply add to it or subtract from it, or it would no longer be valid. By forming a covenant with the Israelites, God was demonstrating His nature: He was making an immovable, unbreakable promise to lead them as their God.

↑ Why was the covenant important for the Israelites? Why should they follow it?

→ How does knowing that we have a new covenant through Christ shape your life?

MEMORIZE

Practice reciting Colossians 2:13 from memory with a friend or family member. Ask them to follow along as you recite, and prompt you with words from the verse if you need help remembering.

PRAY

Say a prayer thanking God for His faithfulness and that we can trust His promises.

