

Small Group Questions

Colossians 2

1. Discuss why Paul's statement in Colossians 2:3 can be such a dividing line between the people of God and the world.
2. Look at 1:10 and 2:6.
 - a. What is the common focus?
 - b. Who is the standard in our walk?
 - c. How does walking worthy related to Paul's concern about being deluded by "plausible arguments?"
3. Working through the "plausible arguments," let's begin with Philosophy. (vv. 8-10)
 - a. What kind of philosophy is Paul concerned with? (v. 8)
 - b. What did Paul and Solomon have to say about philosophy? (Phil. 3:8; Eccl. 1:13-14)
 - c. Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 together and discuss how this relates to Paul's concerns about philosophy in Colossians 2.
 - d. How did the "muddy puddle" and "pollywog philosophy" illustrations help clarify Paul's concerns about human philosophy (empty deceit)? How does the philosophy Paul is describing undermine faith?
4. External Religion (vv. 16-17)
 - a. Why is external religion (legalism) always consumed with details?
 - b. Why was the requirement of circumcision an ongoing battle for Paul in his ministry to churches?
 - c. What in our Christianity would fall into the category of "external religion"? How can we guard against being drawn away from Christ by external elements of our faith?
 - d. How were external elements of Judaism in the Old Testament actually supposed to aid the people of God in understand salvation and relationship with God?
5. Mysticism
 - a. What are some examples of the mystical in some Christian circles?
 - b. How does the pursuit mystical things draw someone into a false spirituality?
 - c. Why does the "top of the mountain worship" actually draw someone away from Christ?
 - d. Why is the antidote to mysticism?
6. Asceticism (vv. 18-23)
 - a. What is it?
 - b. How can it undermine faith? 2 Cor. 11:3; Gal. 2:16