

Unpacking the Preach

Date: 26th June 2022
Sermon Title: Don't get taken captive in the battle
Bible Passage: Colossians 2: 6 - 15

Introduction

Take time to read the passage from a couple of different translations.

- What stands out to you from this passage?
- Are there parts of this passage that you do not understand?
- What questions are you left with from this passage?

Recapping the Preach

Stu began by pointing out that the Christian life is a battle but this is not always the way we think. As Christians we should be watchful and vigilant in our faith because there is an enemy who is seeking to destroy us (1 Peter 5:8). Therefore we must be careful that we do not get taken captive in the battle, which is what Paul is calling for in this passage. Stu pointed out that the 'hollow and deceptive philosophies' could have been to do with the polytheistic culture or a type of Jewish mysticism.

- Have a look at the following passages: 2 Timothy 4:7, 1 Timothy 6:12, 1 Corinthians 9:26-27, 2 Corinthians 10:3-5, Ephesians 6:10-18. What do they tell us about the Christian life?
- What are the characteristics of the hollow and deceptive philosophies that Paul mentions?
- What 'hollow and deceptive philosophies' do you encounter in culture today?
- Stu mentioned that the fruit of these philosophies would be to cause the Colossians to doubt God, fear, feel insecure in their faith and be led astray. Which of these stands out to you?

Stu then went on to point out that Paul's remedy for the Colossians, to ensure they are not taken 'captive' is to focus on the fullness of Christ and the fullness of our forgiveness.

- What is the fullness of Christ (check out Colossians 1:15-20)?
- What does Paul mean when he says, 'you have been given fullness in Christ' (2:10)?
- What do you think Paul is trying to communicate when he uses the illustration of circumcision (vs.11) and baptism (vs.12)?
- List the things that Jesus has done for us in vs.13-15?
- How should we live in response to these verses?
- How do you think knowing of Christ's fullness and forgiveness can prevent us being taken captive by hollow and deceptive philosophies?

Stu concluded that we should continue in Christ being rooted and built up in Him (2:6-7)

- Compare Colossians 2:6-7 with Ephesians 3:16-19. In ways are they similar? In what ways are they different?
- What does it mean to be rooted and built up in Christ?
- How can we be strengthened in the faith we were taught?
- Paul also encourages us to be thankful: so what things can you give thanks to God for today?

Response

- Is there anything from the preach and passage that you will be taking away to reflect on or work on?

Prayer pointers

- Take time to share prayer requests and pray for one another.

Additional resources:

If you need some additional resources the below websites are useful:

- <https://www.gotquestions.org>
- <https://bibleproject.com> (videos)
- <https://enduringword.com>
- <https://www.biblica.com>
- <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/>