



Colossians



SHEPHERDCHURCH

Week 4: The Triumph of the Cross

Welcome

What's one message you regularly hear from the world that tries to pull your heart away from Jesus?

Worship

Read **Colossians 2:13-15** aloud as a group. Then spend a few moments in silence reflecting on this question: What does it stir in you to know that your sin, shame, and spiritual debt were nailed to the cross and disarmed forever? After the silence, have someone pray and thank God for the victory of Jesus.

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Word

(If you haven't already, watch the video lesson and read **Colossians 2:6-15** aloud)

1. Read **Colossians 2:6-7**. Paul uses four metaphors in verse 7—"rooted," "built up," "strengthened," and "overflowing with thankfulness." Which one best describes where you currently are in your spiritual life?

2. What does Paul mean by "hollow and deceptive philosophy" in **Colossians 2:8**? How can you discern when something is spiritually helpful versus merely "human tradition" or a counterfeit truth?

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3. What does **Colossians 2:9** mean and why is this verse important for our understanding of Jesus?

4. In **Colossians 2:10**, Paul says that we "have been brought to fullness." How does this truth challenge the idea that we are always lacking or not enough? When do you feel most tempted to look for fulfillment outside of Jesus?

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5. What two concepts does Paul compare transformation to in **Colossians 2:11-12**? What do these images communicate about the old being gone and the new coming?

6. Read **Colossians 2:13-15**. What is the "charge of legal indebtedness" (or "written code" in some Bible versions) referred to by Paul? What does it mean that Jesus canceled it by "nailing it to the cross"? How does the cross make "a public spectacle" of dark spiritual forces?

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7. While suffering, persecution, and dark spiritual forces can be scary or intimidating to think about, we need to remember that Christ has given us salvation and triumphed over them (**Colossians 2:13-15**). In the video lesson, Michael said, "You're struggling with something that's already been defeated." What is something in your life you need to see through the lens of the cross? What would it look like to lean more fully in the freedom Christ secured for you?

Witness

How might **Colossians 2:6-15** equip you to share the gospel with someone who feels trapped by guilt, shame, or spiritual confusion? Share the name of someone you want to talk to about Jesus.

Continue planning your outreach project as a Life Group.

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Personal Reflection & Deeper Study for this Week

- Memorize **Colossians 2:6-7** or **Colossians 2:13-14** this week.
- Compare **Colossians 2:14-15** with **Romans 8:1-4** and **Hebrews 2:14-15**.
 - What do these passages teach about Jesus' victory over sin and spiritual death?
 - Reflect and journal on the following:
 - What part of your old identity (sin, shame, past failure) is hardest to see as "nailed to the cross"?
 - What would it look like to live each day with confidence in Christ's triumph?
- The demonic categories in **Colossians 1:16; 2:10, 15** are not explained, but the words used and words/phrases from other verses reflects some sort of high order of demons. Look at the Scriptures associated with each title and take notes over how these demons or dark forces are alike, not alike, what they do, etc.
 - Thrones (**Colossians 1:16**)
 - Rulers (**Romans 8:38; 1 Corinthians 2:6-8; Ephesians 1:21; 6:12; Colossians 1:16**)
 - Authorities (**Ephesians 1:21; 6:12; Colossians 1:16; 2:15; 1 Peter 3:22**)
 - Powers (**Romans 8:38; Ephesians 1:21; 6:12; Colossians 1:16; 2:10, 15; 1 Peter 3:22**).
 - Powers of this dark world (**Daniel 10:13, 20; Ephesians 6:12; Colossians 1:13**)
 - The spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms (**1 Kings 22:19-23; Ephesians 6:12; Revelation 12:7-9**)