

Revolutionary Grace

Week 2: Live Free!

This Week's Scripture Reading: Colossians 1-4, 1 Thessalonians 1-5 , 2 Thessalonians 1-3, 1 Timothy 1-2 and Psalms 13-19

Colossians 2:6 (NIV)

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him,

Colossians 2:7 (NIV)

rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

Hebrews 5:11-14 (NIV)

We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are slow to learn.

¹² In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! ¹³

Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. ¹⁴ But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

Colossians 2:8 (NIV)

See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, . . .

. . . which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.

Colossians 2:9-12 (NIV)

For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, ¹⁰ and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority. ¹¹ In him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ, ¹² having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.

Colossians 2:13-15 (NIV)

When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, ¹⁴ having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

Colossians 2:16-17 (NIV)

Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. ¹⁷ These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.

Colossians 2:18-19 (NIV)

Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you for the prize. Such a person goes into great detail about what he has seen, and his unspiritual mind puffs him up with idle notions. ¹⁹ He has lost connection with the Head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow.

Colossians 2:20-21 (NIV)

Since you died with Christ to the basic principles of this world, why, as though you still belonged to it, do you submit to its rules: ²¹ "Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!"?

Colossians 2:22 (NIV)

These are all destined to perish with use, because they are based on human commands and teachings.

Matthew 15:3 (NIV)

Jesus replied, "And why do you break the command of God for the sake of your tradition?"

Colossians 2:23 (NIV)

Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.

Paul Is Desperately Trying To Get Us To Understand . . .

Religious Rules And Regulations Only Bring Restrictions
Whereas Faith And Fruit Bring About Freedom

Today's Truth Statement:

Genuine Belief Is The Only Thing That Creates Righteous Behavior.
It Changes Our Focus From Trying To Stay Right With God,
To Living Free With Him And Then Helping Others To Do The Same.

Questions:

- What One Truth Or Statement Impacted You Most?
- How Does Constantly Using Our Faith Bring About Spiritual Maturity?
- How Does Not Constantly Using Our Faith Bring About Spiritual Immaturity?
- As A Group List 3 Hollow And Deceptive Philosophies That Remove Our Need For Christ In The Religious World Of Today.
- Why Do You Think Paul Said In vs. 18-19 That The Religious Had Lost Connection With The Head?
- Share Your Thoughts About The Statement; “The Only Thing That Can Stop The Power Of God, Is The Traditions Of Men.”
- How Are We Able To Be Taken Captive By Religious Rules And Regulations?
- Share Two Ways You Have Seen Rules And Regulations Limit Your Faith And Fruit In Christ?
- How Have You Seen Faith In God’s Grace Bring Freedom To Your Walk?
- Since One Of The Marks Of True Freedom In Christ Is Witnessing His Grace To The Lost, On A Scale Of 1-10 How “Free” Are You?

Next Week’s Scripture Reading: 1 Timothy 3-6, 2 Timothy 1-4, Titus 1-3, Philemon,
Hebrews 1-4 and Psalms 20-26