

# Seek Christ

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Preacher: Glenn Haugh

[ 0 : 00 ] Good morning everyone. Get myself all turned on here so you can hear me and I guess so we can get this recorded.

I just praise God that I see you here this morning. And for our visitors, just to let you know, I am not the pastor. But I am one of the family here at the church and I'm given opportunities to speak God's word and to share with you what God has put in my heart in some of the scripture that we're studying.

We've been studying in the book of Colossians so if you want to go ahead and go to chapter two of Colossians. Your translation may be different than mine but I didn't put the scripture up on the screen so if you want to try to follow along you can but I just wanted to go ahead and tell you that and I'd like to start us off with a word of prayer if you wouldn't mind.

Heavenly Father we just thank you Lord for giving us this time to gather together this morning. Father it is good to be in your house and I praise your holy name for everything that you do Lord for us.

Lord you have bound us and brought us together as a church family here and so Lord as we come together to hear your word this morning I pray that the Holy Spirit will open our ears and open our eyes that we can see your word and Lord that it can be a part of our life that will draw us closer and bring better more unity to the church family but Lord also help us to grow in and our strength in you and Lord we give you the praise and honor for all this in Jesus name we pray amen.

[ 1 : 40 ] Amen. Let me make sure I got my stuff here all right. Yep. Okay cool. Well let me ask you this first of all not too many of you people might know this but can anybody identify our robot up on the screen?

That's robot. Robot. That's very good from what? From lost in space. Lost in space that's right. You know one of the things I often think of the robot and actually it was robot B9, B-9 if you're curious but he would with some kind of problem especially around with Will Smith, Will Robinson.

I can't really say Will Smith, Will Robinson. He the robot's arms would start flinging around he'd say danger danger Will Robinson and you know what kind of like when we're looking at our scripture this morning we're going to kind of look at that kind of idea and everything.

Sometimes I think we ought to invest you know put it in our budget to get us one of those life-size replicas of the robot. We can put it back here and we've got something kind of going strange on in the church. His arms would pop out and he'd start to say danger Monk you're a danger and everything and he would bring us.

Well you never notice that that sometimes if we're not careful instead of influencing the world the world has a tendency to influence us. And often the church will turn to rituals and as a way of set as a way to get to salvation.

[ 3 : 08 ] But there's only one way. So let me share some scripture with you in chapter 2 and I want to I'm going to dab back a little bit. I'm kind of I'm kind of way I'm going to be the verses I'm doing is a little like when I paint at home.

I'm a little messy. So I'm actually going to go back pick up a couple verses that our brother Mark brought us and then I'm going to sneak and get one of the verses that brother Steve is going to have next time and everything.

But so if you in chapter 2 and I'm reading out the New American Standard verse 4 says I say this in order that no one may delude you with persuasive arguments.

Then I'm going to jump to verse 8 and it's going to say see to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy empty deception according to the tradition of men and according to the elementary principles of the world rather that according to Christ and then I have verses actually 16

through 23.

Therefore let no one act as your judge in regard to food or drink or respect to the festival or a new moon or Sabbath day. Things which are a mere shadow of what is to come but the substance belongs to Christ.

[ 4 : 29 ] Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in the self-abasement and the worship of angels taking this stand on visions he has seen inflated with other caught without cause by his fleshy mind and not holding fast to the head from whom the entire body being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments grows with growth which is from God.

If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world why as if you were living in the world do you submit yourself to decrees such as do not handle do not taste do not touch which are all referred to things destined to perish with the using in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men.

These are matters which have to be these are matters which have to be sure the appearance of wisdom in the self-made religion and self-abasement and severe treatment of the body but are of no value against fleshy indulgence and we're going to stop right there for right now.

I want to share a little story with you a little bit. Put a little drawing up here. A fellow's walking along one day not paying attention he's walking on his path and he's not looking in front of him like he should and he falls in a pit.

He's in that pit and the water comes up just enough and his feet's down. You ever been in like a pit or a pond or something the water at the bottom's real soft and gooey your feet kind of sink in. Well his feet have sunk down the bottom he's in there.

[ 6 : 09 ] It's too wide for him to put his hands out to climb out. It's too high for him to jump up and grab a hold up to pull himself out and everything but he's stuck in that pit and he's in the water. He don't know what's in the water you know that's that's the part I always hate when I go swimming in a river or something not knowing what's under that water.

And he doesn't know either. So he's in this pit. He sees a rope hanging off to the side and he thinks oh I'll grab that rope and pull myself up. And he reaches up and he grabs that rope.

Well about time he gets about a little bit pulling out of the water the rope breaks. That rope is old and has started to rot and doesn't hold his weight. Splash right back in there.

Then he looks over and he says well you know there's some roots coming out here on the side. I'm going to grab a hold of these roots. I'm going to see if I can pull myself up and get out of this pit. So he grabs the roots. Now the roots are slippery and they're hard to hold on to.

Well they start breaking off and splash he's right back in there again. Then he decides okay I'm going to go something a little bit more. He's getting tired. You know if you've ever been in a situation like this you can get worn out.

[ 7 : 14 ] He thinks oh there's a piece of rock sticking out and I'm going to climb up on them rocks and get out. And he's not able. As he starts climbing the rocks start breaking. He falls. He's cutting his leg. Now he's bleeding under that dirty nasty water.

And things are really getting bad and everything. He's there and he's thinking I can't get out. And then he hears a voice. The voice says give me your hand. And he says what?

Give me your hand. He turns around. There's a smiling face looking down. He says give me your hand and I'll pull you out. And he's sitting there thinking you know I don't have the energy to pull myself up. He says don't worry about that. Just give me your hand and I'll pull you up.

Now I want you to think about that a little bit. Because you can apply that to the idea of maybe somebody not being saved or not. But it's also the idea of applying it to the church. And that's what Paul is doing when he's writing this letter.

He's writing to the church. I kind of had the idea when I was thinking about this. That old rope is the worldly philosophy. You know you get hit with worldly philosophy all the time. Especially if you're going to college or something you know.

[ 8 : 15 ] You get hit by people who are very knowledgeable. And they hit you with that worldly philosophy. But you can get it in a lot of other ways too. Then there's the idea of them fresh groups. A lot of times that's kind of somebody who's got a false humility about themselves.

That are kind of deceiving you. Or it's that flashy worship service and stuff. That kind of gets you to think. Boy I wish we had smoke coming out of our stage. And lights and music and stuff there.

And then watching Steve Garrett get up there and jam a little bit. You know. Really get into the spirit. In other words. And then there's the idea of the sharp rocks. That's that legalistic you know. Rules and stuff that you have to follow. But the thing I want you to think about really through the whole. Really it can easily be summed up. Is there's only one thing. And that is we want to hold on to the mighty hand of Jesus.

Hold on to his hand and hold fast to him. There's no other thing that we need to worry about. And that's what we see. Now. Being a child of the 70's.

[9:18] This was a big thing for me. When I was growing up you know. It was always the idea. There's only one way. People would give that one way sign and everything. And you knew what it was.

It wasn't we're number one. There's only one way. Because Jesus said. I am the way. The truth. The life. No one comes to the Father. But through me. And I want us to keep that in mind.

That we need to remember. That there's only one way. And that's Jesus Christ. Now. In the scripture that I just read you. In chapter 2. Of Colossians.

In that chapter. When I'm reading it in the American Standard. There are two words. That are used. Four times in that. And anytime when I'm reading it in the scripture. Something's kind of repeated. It jumps out at me. And everything. And so. When I started reading this. These two words jumped out at me. No one. Just two small words. No one. And I started looking at those.

[10:15] And I thought. There's a reason that these two words. Are continually used. And everything. And now. Reading it in your translation. May be a little different. But. And these. These two words.

No one. It starts off in verse 4. It says. I say that. In order that. No one. No one. No one. No one. No one. No one. No one. No one. No one. No one. And he says.

Don't let them delude you. Now. If you're deluded. That means. They're going to mislead you. Or deceive you. Or fool you. With their beliefs. Or enticing. Rationality. And so.

He's saying. Don't let anyone. Do that. Remember. Christ is the one. Don't allow. Persuasive language. Fool or trick you. That smooth talker.

You know. All of us. Probably have. Had a smooth talker. At one time. Or something. Sell us. Something. That we didn't really want. Or really didn't need. You know. Especially like. If it's a car. Or something like that. Well.

[11:13] People will do that. Also. With their religious beliefs. And he. Paul is saying. Don't let it. Paul says. You receive Jesus. In faith. So continue.

To journey. In faith. With Jesus. Being firmly rooted. And strengthened. In your steadfast faith. In Jesus Christ. Absorbed.

In your faith. With Jesus Christ. And enriched. In your devotion. To Jesus Christ. Be thankful. And live it. In your life. So. First one.

Don't allow no one. To entice you. With the rationalism. The persuader. To deceive you. In. In. In your faith. With Christ. The next one is.

Um. This is out of. Verse eight. It's also. No one. It says. Verse eight says. See to it. That no one. Takes you captive.

[12:07] Through philosophy. Empty deception. According to the tradition. Of men. According to the elementary. Principles of the world. Rather. Than according to Christ. Being taken captive.

This is being. A prisoner. Through. Vain philosophy. According to man. According to the world. And you know. I have often seen this happen. I always tell the young people. That I have had.

Either in a group. Or in a class. Build on your salvation now. Build on your. Knowledge of Christ. Now. As you're young. Because you're going to run into things. Where people are going to be teaching things. And they're going to think. Boy.

That sounds really good. That sounds right. And they're going to be. They're going to even. Sometimes attack you. They're going to. You know. Make you think. Well you know. If you believe. That Jesus is the son of God.

Then you know. You've got a problem. And everything. Don't allow that to happen. Don't be taken captive. Don't allow the persuasive language. Capture you. Through philosophy. Of this world. Don't let their.

[13:02] Empty deceptions. That they try to. Pass to you. Capture you. And. Don't let it be based on the world tradition. Captivate you. And bring you away from Christ. See.

A lot of people. People have a high opinion of themselves. You know. They might be. They could possibly be. A politician. An educator. An influencer. Which is something. That I learned about. That's on the internet. These people that. Influence. Foolish. And. Or a person of position. And they are going to try to. To. Give you their opinion. And make you think that their opinion. Their philosophy. Is the. Is. Is the right answer. For what you need. Instead. Rely on the philosophy. Of Jesus Christ. Rely on that all the time.

See. We've been. You've been. Made. Acceptable. By Jesus Christ. You've been. Buried with him. Baptized in him. And raised in new life.

[13:56] Through Jesus Christ. Your debt. No longer. Is there. Your debt. Has been nailed to the cross. And you have no debt now. You've been made right with God. So don't allow. A predator's.

Vain philosophy. Capture you. As. As their prey. Especially young people. I want to tell you that. Be very careful of that. And it's not just. Through education. And such as that.

But also online. There is a lot of people. Who get on there. And will give you. Things that sound gospel. They'll throw a little bit of scripture in here. Just to make it sound good. But it's. But you have to.

Listen to what they say. If you're going to listen to it. And. That's why it's good that we're here. And I'm going to share a little bit more about that. In a little bit. Okay. Verses 16 through 17. Which is our next.

No one. It says. Therefore. Let no one. Act as your judge. In regard to food. Or drink. Or respect to festival. Or a new moon. Or Sabbath day.

[14:50] Things which are a mere shadow. Of what is to come. But the substance. Belongs to Christ. There is only one judge. And that judge is Jesus Christ. No other. No one.

No. Do not allow. Other. To judge you. In regard to your food. Your drink. Your festivals. Your new moon. Your Sabbath. Is what he's saying. There seems to be a group.

That's what's going on here. With Paul. Is. They. They had. Their own rules. And it was. An own rule based. Gospel. That they had.

That they were wanting to share. In other words. It was. Not. Just a personal preference. A good habit. Or a healthy way of living. It was. It had to be their way.

And this was being introduced. Into. Trying to be introduced. Into the church. And. With the. Colossians. And. Because this is written back then. It isn't just then.

[15:44] It's also today too. We have to be very careful church. We have to be careful of this. And. If you. If you did not follow their rules. You were judged. As a lesser person.

Or maybe even possibly. Unsaved. Pressure. They pressured. With legalistic rituals. They. It was kind of like. An info commercial. You ever seen an info commercial. They start giving you.

All this stuff. They pressure you. And you're thinking. Oh my gosh. I got to do this. And everything. And it was that kind of idea. They were pressuring you for that. These rituals were but shadows though. Of what is to come.

And that was Jesus Christ. Jesus. Is the real thing. In the Old Testament. All the rituals. All the things that are going on. In the Old Testament. Everything. Is pointing. To Jesus Christ.

And that is for us to know. I heard. My brother. Stephen. Sharing. That he shared with this gentleman. He was going through the Old Testament. And it is. That's very true. Everything that goes on.

[16:37] Is. Points to Jesus. And see. The body of Christ. Which is the church. Which is us. It belongs to Christ. Because. Christ. Is the head.

Of the church. And only Jesus. Makes us. Acceptable. For God. There's no other thing. That we can do. To make ourselves. Acceptable. To God. But through Jesus Christ.

Christ. So. When you make a decision. What. What is it based on? What is your motivation?

Especially in the church sometimes. But in any part of your life. Is it what others expect you to do?

Are there. Are you being. Pressured by others? Or is it because God. Is calling you to do it? And we have to examine. Everything that way. And this involves everything.

Our stewardship. Our education. Our occupation. Our participation. In whatever we're going to do.

Even in the church. Even you know. To the point of. When we choose a mate. Or anything like that.

[17:34] We should allow. Christ. To help us make those decisions. And so. This includes. Getting godly counsel. Too. From others that. We know. Are following the Lord.

And have Christ in their life. Let me share a couple scriptures with you. Just kind of. To put this together. One is from Galatians. Chapter 1. Verse. 10. It says. For I am not. Seeking the favor of men. Or of God. Or am I striving. To please men. If I was still. Striving to please men. I would not be. A bond servant of Christ. See. If we have Christ in life. We are a bond servant of Christ. We don't need to worry about. Pleasing men. For. And then another scripture. Is from John chapter 12. Verse 43. It says. For they love. The approval of men. Rather than approval of God. And that's when Christ. Was speaking of the Pharisees. And the Sadducees. Because of what they were doing. So watch out for these deceivers.

[ 18 : 29 ] Don't live. Don't live to please others. But live to please Jesus Christ. And I think things will go well. And then in our fourth. No other.

It's. Let no one keep defrauding you. Oh. I forgot. I forgot to move a slide one more. Come back here. Come back here.

Okay. This is 18 and 19. It says. Let no one keep defrauding you. Of your prize. By delighting in self-abasement. And the worship of angels. Taking his stand on visions. He has seen. Inflated without cause. By a fleshy mind. Not holding fast to the head. For whom the entire body. Being supplied. And held together. By joints and ligaments. Grows with a growth. Which is from God. Now to defraud. Is to take or to steal. And so he's saying. Don't let nobody defraud you. Or steal from you. And. Because he said. People will do that.

[ 19 : 30 ] They're going to use improper worship. Of maybe heavenly beings. That makes them feel like. They're on a higher plane. And because. You know. They. They might be.

Saying you know. I've got angels. Speaking to me. And everything. Don't let these. These people. Trick you. Or defraud you. Or steal your. Your relationship from Christ. Do not allow your prize. The joyful relationship. That you can have. With Jesus Christ. Be stolen from you. It's kind of like. Similar to. Marriage. As when we see. In Ephesians chapter 5. Compared to the idea. That. That Christ. The church. You know. The church. The bride. Christ. The groom. You're married. And it's that idea. That you have that. That loyalty. That you. You are there for each other. You don't allow somebody else. To come in. And enter. To be mixed into that. And take that part. In your marriage way. And everything. Hold fast to Jesus Christ. Because Jesus.

[ 20 : 23 ] Is the truth. There are no others. Remember. You are responsible. To Jesus Christ. And to Jesus alone. You are responsible. For him. Now how do you do this?

Well I tell you what. One of the best ways. Is the scripture. Christ gives us all the things. That we need to know. And the scripture. You know. And it's so important. For us to read. And to keep reading this.

And keep studying it. Because we get so much knowledge. Out of it. And we get so much understanding. And so we can hold fast. To him. And everything. And this self-abasement. Is false humility. You know. The person who. They. They. They. They're telling you. Well don't do this. Or I don't do this. I don't do that. I don't. I don't drink that.

I don't eat this. Because you know. If I do. You know. You're just not. As holy as me. If you're doing all this. Or you're denying all yourself. It's not that idea. And everything. Because this false humility.

[ 21 : 17 ] Is self-centered. And. We should be. Truly. Humane. If we want to be. Truly. Humble. Then we need to be. God-centered.

In that. Jesus needs to. Not need to be. An add-on. In our relationship. He is. Our relationship. And so. True humility. Is seeing ourselves.

Through God's. Perspective. Not others. Other opinions. Where the angels. Where the path to God. As our brother Phil. Shared with us. Not too long ago. It sounds spiritual.

Sounds good. But that's not it. But let us remember. God's word. Is our guide. And Jesus is the way. And Jesus is the truth. And Jesus is the light.

Those using their call. Of visions. And. And are. Inspired. People. With a self-made religion. That they have for themselves. Desiring. Teaching.

[ 22 : 11 ] From others. To them. That's what it is. They want them. They want. They're going to offer you. A conference. And a seminar. To come and hear them. And listen to them. Make sure you. Click on my. My little. Like here.

On there. So you can be subscribed. To my stuff. They're going to. They're going to do that to you. But Jesus is the way. Jesus is the light. And those. Using their. Call of visions. Will try to. Deceive

you with that.

These people. Have become. Puffed up. But remember. This is a dramatic pause. Remember. Paul tells us.

And reminds us. That Christ. Is the head. And all our growth. Comes from God. Through him. Jesus Christ. He's saying. So beware. Of those.

Who teach about God. With the amount. Connecting him. To them. And by faith. Through Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ. Is our way. He is our truth. He is our life. Don't be distracted.

[ 23 : 06 ] By the flashy. Improper worship. That can happen. Sometimes. Whether it's on the internet. Or even another church. Or wherever you're at. Verse 20. It's kind of the conclusion.

Of the part. That I was going to share with you. There's a few verses. After that. But I'm going to read verse 22. It says. If you have died.

With Christ. To elementary principles. Of the world. Why? As if you are living. In the world. Do you submit yourselves. To degrees. And he goes on. To list that.

See these elementary. Spirits of the world. As we've seen. In verses 8 through 20. Are. In contrast. To Christ. He is the truth. So. If you believe.

There is one way. There is one God. There is one person. One light. Jesus Christ. Then act like him. Live it. And walk it.

[ 24 : 01 ] And claim it. That Jesus is Lord. If you believe that. And remembering. That Jesus is our creator. Jesus is our sustainer. And Jesus is our redeemer. Our freedom comes from.

Jesus Christ. And Jesus only. You know. You have a freedom. Because you have Jesus Christ. As your savior. That freedom. That freedom is a wonderful thing. To know. That you have that freedom.

To know that you. Don't have to worry about your future. You don't have to worry about your. Where you're going to spend eternity at. You have Jesus Christ. Your sins have been paid. And your debt has been paid up on the cross.

And everything. So our freedom comes from Jesus Christ. And it comes from him only. Don't let the appearance of wisdom. The teachings of man. Cause you to continually fall back into that pit.

That we were talking about earlier. The threats to the believers. Then. And as they are today. Is. That worldly philosophy. Sometimes. Works its way. Into our church.

[ 24 : 56 ] And works its way. Into our lives. That legalistic. Rituals and stuff. Can work their way. Into our church. Sometimes. Into our life. And that false humility.

Or. Like heavenly objects. That. That. God uses. Can work their way. Into our church. And into our lives. And so we have to be careful of that. So let me share.

I just want to share a couple scriptures. Here with you. Um. This first one. Is from Matthew 15. 9. Because I think this just kind of helps us. Um. Put this in our head a little bit. It's.

First one is from Matthew 15. 9. It says. But in vain. Do they worship me. Teaching as doctrines. That precepts of men. In other words. He's saying. Be careful. Of. Of how they worship.

And everything. Christ is the way. Then in 1st Timothy 4. 1 through 3. It says. But the spirit. Explicitly says. That in the later times. Some will fall away.

[ 25 : 51 ] From the faith. Paying attention. To deceitful spirits. And doctrines of demons. By the means of hypocrisy. Of liars. Seared in their conscience. As with the branding iron.

Men who forbid marriage. Advocate abstaining from food. Which God has created. To be gratefully shared. In by those who believe. And know the truth. Matthew 15.

11 says. It is. It is not. What enters in the mouth. That defiles man. But what proceeds. Out of the mouth. That defiles man. Then in. 1st Corinthians.

Chapter 3. 9 through 10. It says. It is not. What enters. Whoops. I'm sorry. For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field. God's building. According to the grace of God.

Which was given to me. Like a wise master builder. I have laid a foundation. And another is building on it. But each man must be careful. Careful now.

[ 26 : 46 ] Not to be. That he builds on. Be careful how he builds on it. So my brothers and sisters. I'll tell you this. Beware. And be careful. Of the many ways of the world around you.

We as individuals. And we as church. We have to be careful of that. Don't let. Don't be misled. Don't be captured. By. By talk. Don't let those.

Let others judge you. And don't let them defraud. And take away from you. Keep seeking. Lord. Keep seeking. The things above.

And so now. Is where I want to take. One of my brother Steve's. Scriptures. That he. In chapter 3. Verse 1. I feel like I need to have this kind of. That put. Tied together at the end. It says. If then. You have been raised up with Christ. Keep seeking. The things above. Where Christ is. Seated at the right hand of God. And I think that's what we need to do.

[ 27 : 43 ] Keep seeking. The things. Ahead. And above. Now I want to share. One other thing. This is just. Something I read this week. Because I. This is the most important.

One of the most important things. You can have in your life. Your Bible. God will show you. Reveal so much to you. And I read this. And this book. Was talking about the scripture.

And actually. This is written by a military chaplain. And. And it was. He wrote this. As a major theme. His major theme of the Bible. And I'll close after this.

With the Holy Spirit. As my guide. I enter the wonderful temple. Of Christianity. I enter at the portico. Of. Genesis. Walk down through the Old Testament.

In the galleries. Where pictures of Noah. Abraham. Moses. And Joseph. Isaac. And Daniel. Were hung on the wall. I pass into the music room. Of Psalms. Where the spirit swept.

[ 28 : 40 ] The keyboard. Of nature. Until there seemed to be. In every reed. In every pipe. In God's great organ. Responded. To the tuneful hand. Of David. And the sweet singer.

Of Israel. I entered the chamber. Of Ecclesiastes. Where the voice. Of the preacher. Was heard. And in the conservatory. Of Sharon.

Where the lily. Of the valley. Sweet. Scent space. Feels. And perfumes. My life. I entered the business. Office. Of Proverbs. And then into the observatory.

Room. Of the prophets. Where I saw. The telescopes. Of various sizes. Pointed to a far off event. But all. Concentrated. On a bright. And morning star.

I entered. The audience. Room. Of the king. Of kings. And caught a vision. Of his glory. From the standpoint. Of Matthew. Mark. Luke. And John. Past. As in acts.

[ 29 : 33 ] Of the apostles. Where the holy spirit. Was doing his work. In the formation. Formation. Of the infant. Church. Then. In the. Correspondence room. Where Paul. And Peter.

James. And John. Penning their epistles. I stepped into the. Throne room. Of revelations. Where towards. The glittering peaks. And got a vision.

Of the king. Sitting upon the throne. In all his glory. And I cried. All hail. The power of Jesus name. Let angels. Prostrate themselves. Bring forth.

The royal diamond. And crown him. Lord of all. And we praise God. So as we bow our heads. For prayer. And I'll ask the musicians. Come on up. Church.

I want to give you an opportunity. If you as an individual. Feel like that you. Don't have this in your life. Then I want to give you an opportunity. To come up. And know Christ. I will.

[ 30 : 27 ] Pastor. John is here. And when. Or. I would be glad to pray with you. And we would like to introduce you to Christ. If you don't know. And then also church. If there's something that you're struggling with.

And right now. God's saying. You need to take care of this. Then listen. Don't put it off. Take care of it. Because you know what. The old devil likes to get you out of the church. Because once you get in that car. Your mind switches over.

What are we going to eat? And everything. And he knows. He can get you out that door. He can get that switch. So think about that. And if you've got something. You need to take care of the Lord. Be sure to do it today.

Let's stand the scene together. Turn it up. All right. Thank you. Thank you.

Thank you.

[ 31 : 29 ] Thank you. Thank you.