

## Week Five: From Captivity to Life

### **OPENING:**

- Have someone in your group (other than the person who shared in week three) tell what they were like before they met Jesus and how he has transformed them. (a 3-5 minute testimony!)
- Look at Colossians 2:6-7. From these verses, what can we expect the next few chapters to be about?
- Read Colossians 2:8-15.

### **STUDY:**

- What is Paul's concern at the outset of this passage?
- What deceptions do you think Paul is referring to in verse 8? What are some of those things in our world today that captivate and hinder Christian growth and maturity?
- What does Paul tell us about the identity of Christ in verses 9-15?
- How is the circumcision of Jesus different than the Jewish circumcision? (vs 11-12)
- How is baptism a more helpful picture of belonging than circumcision? (vs 12-13)
- How does Christ deal with the legal issues of his people? (vs 13-15) How does this complete "triumph" make you feel?
- How do verses 9-15 counteract the hollow and deceptive philosophies of verse 8?
- According to this passage, what practical steps can Christians take to NOT be captured by these false narratives?

### **PRAY:**

- Thank God for his triumph through the cross and what that means for us. Ask him to help us remember Christ and be captivated by him alone!

## **Colossians 2:8-15**

*8 See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces[a] of this world rather than on Christ.*

*9 For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, 10 and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority. 11 In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh[b] was put off when you were circumcised by[c] Christ, 12 having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.*

*13 When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you[d] alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, 14 having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken 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.[e]*

### Footnotes

- (a) Colossians 2:8 Or the basic principles; also in verse 20
- (b) Colossians 2:11 In contexts like this, the Greek word for flesh (sarx) refers to the sinful state of human beings, often presented as a power in opposition to the Spirit; also in verse 13.
- (c) Colossians 2:11 Or put off in the circumcision of
- (d) Colossians 2:13 Some manuscripts us
- (e) Colossians 2:15 Or them in him