

COLOSSIANS

CHRIST IS ALL WE NEED

WEEK OF 10/12/2025 **INSUFFICIENT DECEIVERS AND THE TOTAL SUFFICIENCY OF CHRIST** COLOSSIANS 1:28, 2:4-5, 8-10, 16-23

Silence (1-2 minutes)

Sit silently together as a group for a minute as a way to center your heart and invite the Holy Spirit into this week's small group devotional.

Opening Prayer (2-3 minutes)

Read: Colossians 1:28, 2:4-5, 8-10, 16-23

Devotional (30- 45 minutes)

While last week we discussed legalism, the temptation to add to our faith and do something more to earn our position in Christ, this week we look at spiritual deceivers. In today's world, there are people "not serving our Lord Christ" (Romans 16:18) but instead serving themselves. To remain sufficient in the world, they attempt to skew our thinking away from God in clever ways that ring true. These ways, however, are about "Jesus plus" and not Jesus alone. Throughout Colossians 2, Paul warns us of the eloquent speakers who twist words to sound like truth, tricksters who mingle matters of first importance with cultural practices...and call it Christian doctrine, and swindlers who promote performance as identity.

1. Think about your scams as a child. How did you convince your parents to let you stay up past your bedtime? How did you score that extra dessert?
2. Think about your adulthood. How do you persuade your friends to eat at a new restaurant? How do you convince yourself to leave the dirty dishes on the counter because you'll do them tomorrow?

Colossians 2:4-5 | One type of spiritual deceiver Paul speaks of is the eloquent speaker who twists words to sound like truth. Think of their words like photos on a travel website. The photos show the beauty to convince you, the traveler, to stay at their resort, or to take their tour, or to eat at their restaurant. Those photos draw you in like the words of an eloquent speaker can. Their words sound true, and the "true" sucks us in to their belief. However, this true is not God's true. The words represent something and are not, in and of themselves, *the* truth.

3. In verses 1-3, Paul begins by telling of his struggles and affirming his faith. Why do you think he does this?
4. The end of verse 4 talks about "the firmness of your faith in Christ." Discuss a time when someone told you that your faith was firm. How did you benefit? What were your thoughts?

Colossians 2:8-10 | The second type of deceiver Paul warns against is the philosopher. To understand this better, look at the definition of the word "philosophy." Merriam-Webster defines it as "the basic beliefs or guiding principles of a person or group." From this definition, we can surmise why Paul warns the Colossians away from this second type of deceiver. First, a single person alone does make up a body; second, a group, while more so a body, suggests a likemindedness that excludes others. Now, if

we think of the opposite of this, a body that includes everyone no matter their role, we see God's plan: a body of believers, where everyone is welcome to accept Christ's sacrifice for their sins, and where everyone works for the good of God's kingdom. We can do this good work because God sets forth his Word so we know how to follow.

5. If you've struggled with your Christian beliefs, you've likely gone to the Bible for answers. In what ways have you changed your life to follow Christ after finding an answer in his Word?

6. Play the opposite game. What action or behavior in your life can you turn around to reflect Christ?

Colossians 2:16-23 | Finally, Paul warned the Colossians about the spiritual deceivers who promote performance as identity. These deceivers act like the bosses who delegate but still micromanage every single detail. They pile on the work and set impossible standards, and they nitpick until the worker becomes exhausted and emotionally drained. This brand of spirituality forgets the sacrifice of Christ and says we have a debt to pay; we have to keep up, or otherwise not be good enough. But we know the truth: because of Jesus' grace, mercy, and power, we have no debt. God chose to save us, to wipe away our spiritual debt. Because of this we can work for him, trying our best while not checking tasks off a list. Paul's message to the Colossians teaches us to distinguish a spiritual deceiver from a Christ follower. The one distinguishing feature that the spiritual deceivers miss is "Jesus alone." They combine Jesus with their desired results, Jesus with cultural practices, and Jesus with performance. The BIG IDEA for this week is **never trade Christ's infinite sufficiency for a deceiver's incomplete sufficiency**. The truth is, Jesus alone is all we need, because Christ paid our sin debt when he died on the cross.

7. How can you turn your "Jesus plus" into Jesus alone?

8. What rules in your life have interfered with your spiritual life? For instance, does your bedtime dictate whether or not you read your Bible?

9. How can you apply these truths about spiritual deceivers to your life this week?

Closing Prayer

God, your truth alone saves us from sin. Help us to discern the truth of your words from the twisted truths others use to serve the self, give us the strength to rid our lives of twisted truths, and help us to apply your truth to our lives.

Share Prayer Requests (10-15 minutes)