

Growth Teams

Week Beginning
Sunday 28th June 2015

Going deeper

Twice in Colossians 2:6-23, Paul refers to 'human tradition' or 'commands' (vs. 8, 22). He also contrasts the work of Christ with the work of men (vs. 11). Jesus uses a similar contrast in a debate with the Pharisees, when he quotes from Isaiah 29:13.

Read Mark 7:1-20

5. In what ways were the Pharisees 'judging' the disciples of Jesus (vs. 1-5)?
6. The Pharisees were very committed and orthodox worshippers of God. How can Jesus say that their 'worship is in vain' (vs. 7)?
7. Looking at the example Jesus gives (vs. 9-13), how were the Pharisees handling the Bible in the wrong way?
8. Why does Jesus say that rules to do with eating and drinking are useless (vs. 17-23)?
9. What connections are there between this passage and Colossians 2:6-23? Why was the religion of the Pharisees 'bad religion'? Can you think of times when the Christian religion becomes a bit like the religion of the Pharisees?

Now turn over and do 'Applying it to our lives'.

Growth Teams

Growth Teams are a wonderful opportunity to go deeper with other Christians. They are a great place to build real friendships and support networks, to pray for one another and to look more carefully at the topics we consider on a Sunday.

This week is the fourth in our series on Colossians and the importance of being 'rooted in Christ,' we are asking the question: "Good Religion. Bad religion. What's the difference?"



**Growing in Christ
to glorify God
and enjoy Him forever.**

Good religion. Bad religion. What's the difference?

Colossians 2:6-23 (page 1183)

Space to take notes on the talk

Good religion: _____

Bad religion: _____

Five reasons to be _____:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Five problems with bad religion:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Starter question

- What is your experience of talking to people from different religions?

Responding to the talk

1. If you had to summarise the talk for a friend who missed this week's talk, what would you say?
2. Read Colossians 2:6-8
 - a. What is the contrast between vs. 6-7 and vs.8?
 - b. What will our religious life look like if we follow vs. 6-7?
 - c. What is Paul warning against in vs. 8? Why is it a problem?
3. Read Colossians 2:9-15
 - a. What is so great about who Jesus is and what he has done?
 - b. What kind of 'circumcision' is Paul talking about in vs. 11?
 - c. How did Jesus 'forgive all our sins'? (vs. 13-14)
4. Read Colossians 2:16-23
 - a. What sort of things are we not to allow ourselves to be judged for (vs. 16, 18, 21)?
 - b. In what ways does Paul criticise the false teachings or rules he mentions (vs. 17, 19, 22, 23)?
 - c. How does being 'rooted in Christ' help us to avoid being taken in by this kind of false teaching?

If there is time, you may like to do the 'Going deeper' questions over the page. Otherwise please just jump to questions 10 and 11.

Applying it to our lives

10. Someone criticises you after church for not following a particular religious practice that they think is important. What is the best way to respond? (Compare also Romans 14:1-8).
11. How do we discern between what helps us to be 'rooted in Christ' (vs. 7) and what is a 'human religious rule' (vs. 8)?