



“Gospel-Centered Freedom”

Colossians 2:6-23

LISTEN

Record your insights and observations from this week’s sermon:

SHARE

For what are you especially thankful today?

REFLECT

- a) Read Colossians 2:6-23.

- b) According to verses 6-7, we “continue to live” as believers essentially the same way we “received Christ Jesus as Lord.” So how does a person receive Christ? That is, what attitudes and actions are required in order for someone to be converted?

- c) How do those same attitudes and actions empower the Christian to grow?

- d) In his sermon, Mike distinguished between *passively* remaining in Christ and *actively* remaining in Christ. Do you understand the difference? Explain.

e) What alternative pathways to Christian maturity did false teachers offer the Colossian believers? Clarify what was wrong with them.

APPLY

a) Mike talked about drifting away from grace. Has this happened in your life? If so, what have you been trusting in to find acceptance with God?

b) When you consider the wide variety of teachings that claim to be Biblical today, where do you see people being deceived and led away from the sufficiency of Christ?

c) Do you feel forgiven and free from condemnation on a steady, daily basis? If not, why do you think that's the case?

d) Verses 13-15 contain the greatest news known to man. We call it the "gospel." And Paul's point is not simply that the gospel saves you. It also sanctifies. The Christian must fight hard every day to believe that gospel and get it down deeply into his or her heart in order to grow to maturity. Martin Luther said, "I must hearken to the gospel, which teaches me, not what I ought to do, but what Jesus Christ the Son of God has done for me . . . Most necessary it is, therefore, that we should know this article well, teach it unto others, and beat it into their heads continually." What concrete steps can you take to "get the gospel" on a deeper level than you ever have before?

PRAY

a) Pray for the finances of UPC, that we would be in healthy financial shape as we approach the end of 2008.

b) Pray for our Christmas Home Gatherings to be an effective outreach for our church. Pray for our goal of at least 50 gatherings, and that many will come to Christ through them.

c) Ask the Holy Spirit to be at work in our church during the Christmas holidays, comforting the afflicted and convicting the comfortable.