



home groups

Discussion Guide



He Gives Us A New Standing

Colossians 2:1-15

Ice Breaker

(5 minutes)

Discuss

- How many philosophers can you name?
-

Lesson Review

(45 minutes)

Read Colossians 2:1-15

In this passage, Paul warns the Christians at Colossae not to buy into the “hollow and deceptive” philosophies of the culture around them. These included angel worship, adherence to Mosaic law, and nascent secular philosophies of Greece. Mark outlined seven themes from modern culture that he would call “hollow and deceptive philosophies.” But before you review those seven, think of your own.

Discuss

- What hollow and deceptive beliefs are commonly held in our day? What philosophies would Paul object to if he was writing this letter to IBC?

Mark outlined seven empty modern philosophies.

- **Superstition:** Faith in the power of supernatural forces like astronomy or mediums.
- **Naturalism:** A worldview that says that things we can experience with our biological senses are the only things that are real or important.
- **Nationalism:** The mistaken confluence of faith with patriotism.
- **Longevity:** The worship of good health and long life.
- **Works:** The persistent human impulse to believe that God will love us more if we behave better.
- **Universalism:** The idea that all religions are basically the same.
- **Extremism:** Religious zeal unhinged from wisdom.

Discuss

- Which of these do you see at work in the church?
- Which of these do you see at work in our culture?

In verse 8 of this passage, Paul warns the Colossians not to be “taken captive” by these philosophies. These are not benign ideas to be taken on and off like changing socks. Once adopted, these philosophies take captive their adherents and refuse to let them go. Such is the nature of idols.

But Jesus came to relieve the oppressed and set captives free. And Paul says in this passage that the Christian answer to hollow philosophies is not another philosophy, but a person. We don’t just have a worldview, we have a savior.

Discuss

- Have you had any philosophical conversations lately?
- When you encounter hollow or deceptive philosophies in others, do you answer with a more Biblical philosophy? Or do you answer with Jesus? Or do you answer at all?

Application

(10 minutes)

Discuss

- What hollow and deceptive philosophies are most dangerous in your life?

