

THE REAL PROBLEM

8/1 & 8/2

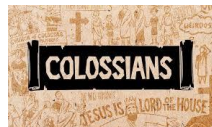
[Colossians 2:16-23](#) – There are many problems in the world around us. Some of those problems are solvable, and some are very complicated. Paul hears about the church in Colossae and a struggle that they are facing. So, he writes about what he sees the struggle is, and gives them ways to stay true to Jesus. In some ways, we are not any different than the church in Colossae. We add rules to rules in hopes of keeping people on the straight and narrow path. The focus is on the rules rather than on Jesus. We should be more like Paul and keep the focus on Jesus. Jesus is the one who forgives us and shows us the path to His kingdom.

What is the problem in the church of Colossae?

How does this problem show up in the church of today?

What do we need to do to solve the problem?

Sermon Notes



Our Journey for July 27 – August 2, 2026

In college, I studied engineering. Many of my classes were physics and calculus, or were based on those two subjects. Most of the time, we focused on finding answers to the problems that were in front of us. This led to being a quick problem solver, sometimes too quick to see problems. In reading Colossians, Paul takes his time to reveal the problems in the church. He hints at it in the first two chapters of this letter. He finally lets it come out at the end of chapter 2. Paul spends a lot of time pointing out who Jesus is and what Jesus has done. This leads us to think that the problem lies in their understanding of Jesus, but the church has let outside influences lead them far from Jesus. The church is focusing on restrictive rules about what to eat or touch rather than on the forgiveness that Jesus brings. The church is heading to a form of legalism that has nothing to do with Jesus, while ignoring the forgiveness Jesus brings. We may be tempted to do the same thing. So let's keep Jesus the main thing.

~ Pastor Seth

FOLLOWING GOD'S WAYS

Mon. 7/27

[Psalm 119:1-8](#) – How do you know if you have a problem? Do you go by a feeling? Do you look at the past? We can tell when our body has a problem by our body temperature. What about when our soul is not well? What standard do we use? Psalm 119 helps us to see that there is a standard. It is God's word, the Bible. The Bible shows us who God is and what He expects of us. The Bible shows us how to live and how deeply God's love for us is. The more we read it, the more we see. The more we see, the more our lives change. The change goes from being centered on ourselves to being centered on God.

How do you know if your soul is not well?

How often do you read the Bible? What stops you from reading it? Who can help you read more of the Bible?

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Tue. 7/28

[Exodus 20:1-17](#) – What comes to mind when you hear “The Ten Commandments”? Is it the Charlton Heston movie? Is it a flashback to Sunday School? Hopefully, we have heard of the Ten Commandments. They are the ten laws that God gave Moses and the Israelites as they left Egypt and headed to the Promised Land. God gave them to His people so they would know how they could follow Him. They are boundaries that keep us in line with what God asks of us. We might be tempted to dismiss them, thinking they are not needed because we have Jesus, but they help us see where we misstep in our everyday lives. For example, when we place something other than God at the top of our lives, we are breaking the first commandment. When we break the commandment, Jesus is there to forgive us and to restore the relationship with God.

When was the last time you read over the Ten Commandments?

Why are the Ten Commandments still needed today?

CONSEQUENCES

Wed. 7/29

[Jeremiah 22:1-9](#) - Accountability is a tough word in our day and age, but one could make the argument that it is tough in every day and age. We don't like to be held accountable for our actions. We do like it when others are held accountable for their actions. As God speaks through Jeremiah, He continues to urge them to be just and right with the oppressed. God set up the laws in Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. The hope was that people would follow the laws and treat each other justly, but by Jeremiah's time, they did not. They wanted what they wanted, when they wanted it. They did whatever they could to get ahead. God is now holding them accountable. If they change their ways, He would pour out His wrath. As history shows, they did not heed God's warning.

What were the consequences for the people in Jeremiah's day?

Why don't we like to be held accountable?

SOMETHING NEW

Thur. 7/30

[Matthew 5:43-48](#) – Jesus takes what the people know and shows them a different way. It is like he is taking the wisdom of the day and making it wisdom from God. There are several instances in Matthew 5 where Jesus does this; we will focus on one. The teachings from the religious leaders were to love your neighbor and hate your enemy. Jesus said there is a much better way. We should love our neighbor and our enemy. When we love our enemy, we are doing something counterintuitive. We are showing them love instead of hatred. It is not easy to do this, and we will have to swallow our pride and self-righteousness. As we show our enemies love, we help them to see the love of Jesus. We were once enemies of God because of our sin, but God loved us and sent Jesus so we would be with God for eternity.

How does loving our enemies show our love for God?

What does it take to love our enemies?

THE HEAD

Fri. 7/31

[Ephesians 4:1-16](#) – How could you live without a head? Our heads hold our brains, which control our bodies. Paul understands what our heads do for our bodies, so he uses that imagery to help us understand that Jesus is the head of the body, the church. As we live together as a church, we mature and learn to lean on each other. As we lean on each other, we trust each other to do what we are gifted, enabled, and equipped to do. In doing this, we become a stronger body with Jesus as our head. Jesus is the one who leads, guides, and directs us. Jesus is the one who connects us and controls us. The struggle is that we don't like the idea of someone else leading, guiding, or directing us. We become a headless organization if we don't submit to Jesus.

What does it look like to submit to Jesus?

How can we let Jesus be the head of the church?