Spring Valley Baptist Church

Colossians: Walking In The Ways Of God

How Do We Make Decisions That Will Help Us Walk In The Ways of God?

Colossians 1:15-23 - **The Son is the image of the invisible God**, the firstborn over all creation.[16] **For in him all things were created**: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. [17] **He is before all things, and in him all things hold together**. [18] And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that **in everything he might have the supremacy**. [19] **For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him**, [20] and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. [21] This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions. [22] Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault. [23] But you must continue to believe this truth and stand firmly in it. Don't drift away from the assurance you received when you heard the Good News.

We must make Jesus supreme in our lives if we want to become what God wants us to be:

•He is the visible image of God.

•He is supreme over everything.

•He created everything.

•He sustains all things.

•He is the One who makes us right with God.

John 14:6 - Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me."

2 Corinthians 5:21 - For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

Heresies In The Colossian Church That We Still See Today

A heresy is a dangerous and destructive teaching or belief that deviates from essential Christian doctrine.

- **Humanism** (Colossians 2:8)
  Man is the center of his universe and the solution to his own problems.
- **Legalism** (Colossians 2:11-17)
  You must obey rules, regulations and traditions.
- **Mysticism** (Colossians 2:18-19)
  Emphasis is on the supernatural.
- **Asceticism** (Colossians 2:20-23)
  Deprive yourself of anything pleasurable because it can't be from God.

Humanism

Colossians 2:6-8 - So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, [7] rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. [8] See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.

The Roots of Humanism (3rd and 4th century BC)

- **Stoicism**
  Logic and reason are supreme.
- **Platonism**
  Spirit is good. Matter is evil. A person can separate the two through the pursuit of wisdom.
- **Epicureanism**
  The ultimate goal of life is to achieve happiness through a state of tranquility and absence of pain. This is achieved through a simple life focused on friendships and eliminating fears of the gods or death.
- **Modern day secular humanism**
  There are no supernatural beings. We only live this life and that's it. There is no afterlife. Human experience and rational thinking provide the only source of both knowledge and a moral code to live by.

2 Peter 2:1-4 - There were also false prophets in Israel, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will cleverly teach destructive heresies and even deny the Master (Jesus) who bought them. In this way, they will bring sudden destruction on themselves. [2] Many will follow their evil teaching and shameful immorality. And because of these teachers, the way of truth will be slandered. [3] In their greed they will make up clever lies to get hold of your money. But God condemned them long ago, and their destruction will not be delayed.

A life guided by self leads to destruction.

A life devoted to Jesus leads to God's best for us.

Matthew 7:13-14