



THE SCROLLS

Helping one another mature so we can impact our world for Christ

This week's belief: Giving My Faith

For the week of September 5th, 2005

Beliefs

- T rinity
- S alvation by Grace
- A uthority of Bible
- P ersonal God
- I dentity in Christ
- C hurch
- H umanity
- C ompassion
- E ternity
- S tewardship

Practices

- W orship
- P rayer
- B ible S tudy
- S ingle-mindedness
- B ible Community
- S piritual Gifts
- G iving My T ime
- G iving My Money
- G iving My Faith
- G iving My Life

Virtues

- L ove
- J oy
- P eace
- P atience
- K indness/Goodness
- F aithfulness
- G entleness
- S elf-Control
- H ope
- H umility
- F orgiveness

I've Got an Idea!

The world we live in runs on ideas and philosophies. Many of them are so subtle and so seemingly innocent that we don't even recognize them for what they are. Listen to Dallas Willard's thoughts on the subject.

"...our longing for goodness and rightness and acceptance – and orientation – makes us cling to bumper slogans, body graffiti, and gift shop nostrums that... seem deep but in fact make no sense: "Stand up for your rights" sounds so good. How about "All I ever needed to know I learned in kindergarten?" And "Practice random kindnesses and senseless acts of beauty?" And so forth. Such sayings contain a tiny element of truth. But if you try to actually plan your life using them you are in deep, deep trouble. They will lead you 180 degrees in the wrong direction. You might as well pattern your life on Bart Simpson or Seinfeld. But try instead "Stand up for your responsibilities" or "I don't know what I need to know and must now devote my full attention and strength to finding out" (Consider Proverbs 3:7 or 4:7) or "Practice routinely purposeful kindnesses and intelligent acts of beauty." Putting these into practice immediately begins to bring truth, goodness, strength and beauty into our lives. But you will never find them on a greeting card, plaque, or bumper."

This week Paul's words to the Colossian believers are a reminder to us, who live in the year 2005, that we live amongst a sea of philosophies and ways of thinking that float ever around us. What to do about them? Let's learn together....



Phi-los-o-phy *n. pl.* - the love and pursuit of wisdom

Monday – Hollow Philosophies

Please read Col. 2:8-10, Proverbs 3:7 and 4:7

1. What are some of the ideas and philosophies of our day that are popular and considered worthy of our trust?
2. What does Paul say about these ideas and philosophies?
3. As you consider Dallas Willard's quote in the introduction and Proverbs 3:7 & 4:7, what do you think is wrong with these seemingly innocuous slogans?
4. Think about a philosophy you formerly held that you have since rejected. Why did you reject it? What role did the Bible play in that decision to reject the philosophy?

Tuesday – See to it!

Please read Colossians 2:8-10 and John 8:31-32

"Such sayings contain a tiny element of truth. But if you try to actually plan your life using them you are in deep, deep trouble." Dallas Willard – The Divine Conspiracy

1. In what ways can a false philosophy or idea take a person captive? In what ways can a truthful philosophy set a person free?
2. What words does Paul use to describe these false philosophies?
3. Why are philosophies about life so powerful in their hold on us?
4. According to Paul and Jesus, how do we go about "seeing to it" that we are not seduced by these godless philosophies?

Wednesday – Sheep without a Shepherd

"Remember, merciful Jesus, that I am the cause of your journey." Mozart's Requiem

Please read Col. 2:8-10 and Matthew 9:35-38

1. How did Jesus describe those who were taken in by hollow and deceptive philosophies?
2. What was his response to their condition?
3. If we were to respond to people's lostness as Christ did, what practical things might we do?

Putting it into Practice – Take some time today to practically love someone you know who is being held captive by the false philosophies of our day. Whether your practical act of love is prayer or something else, purpose to do it today.

"Helping one another mature so we can impact our world for Christ"

Thursday – Tradition! Tradition!

Please read Colossians 2:8 and Mark 7:1-16

1. In Mark 7, what human traditions did Jesus confront? What life philosophy did these traditions lead to? How did Jesus address their false philosophy?
2. What are the “human traditions” that form the false philosophies of our day?
3. What are the “principals of the world” that form the false philosophies we are familiar with?
4. At the end of Colossians 2:8 Paul tells us from where (or whom) truthful philosophies come from. What does he say?

Friday – The Acid Test

“The main problem with [a hollow and deceptive philosophy] is that ‘its not in line with the king’. Whatever new idea someone comes up with, this is the acid test; does it have Jesus, the Messiah, the Lord, as its center and focus? If not beware.” Tom Wright – The Prison Letters

Please read Colossians 2:8-10

1. When it comes to fighting worldly philosophies, Paul’s best advice is found at the end of verse 8 and 9-10. What is his advice?
2. What does Paul say about Christ in these 3 verses?
3. How does Jesus Christ enable us to discern and reject the hollow and deceptive ideas of our world?
4. Read Matthew 7:24-29. Does this passage help you answer question #3?

Saturday – “My Words”

Please read Col. 2:8-10 and Matthew 7:24-29

1. Matt. 7:24-29 provides a visual image of what Paul is telling us in Col. 2:8-10. In what ways do these 2 passages compliment one another?
2. The result of living one’s life by worldly philosophies is creatively described for us in the life of the “sand builder”. How are such philosophies initially attractive but eventually destructive?
3. How does a person go about living a life built on a solid foundation?
4. Consider your life at present. What are you doing to live your life by the very words of Christ?



Homegroup Discussion

This section is designed for Home Groups and Small Groups who would like to discuss the Scrolls together. Begin by reading the introduction, “I’ve Got An Idea” and Col. 2:8-10.

1. What are some of the ideas and philosophies of our day that are popular and considered worthy of our trust?
2. What does Paul say about these ideas and philosophies?
3. Ask group members to think about a philosophy they formerly held that they have since rejected. Ask group members to share why they rejected it?
4. What words does Paul use to describe these false ideas and philosophies?
5. Why are philosophies about life so powerful in their hold on us?
6. According to Paul, how do we go about “seeing to it” that we are not seduced by these godless philosophies?
7. Read Matt. 7:24-29 together. How does this passage help us to understand what Paul is talking about in Col. 2?
8. How are we to go about building our lives upon the rock?

Closing – Close by going around the group and giving people a chance to share one practical way they are seeking to build upon the rock.

Family Time with Kids

Families can use these Bible readings and the question of the week to help your children learn about their faith.

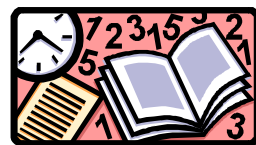
___ **Monday:** Matthew 7:24-29

___ **Tuesday:** John 8:31-32

___ **Wednesday:** Mark 7:1-16

___ **Thursday:** Col. 2:8-10

___ **Friday:** Proverbs 3:7 & 4:7



Question of the Week: If we believe the wrong things, we can get into all kinds of trouble. For example, if you believe that lying will help you, you will eventually find out that lying causes all kinds of problems in our lives. One problem is that people learn that a liar cannot be trusted. It is very important to believe the right things about life. As you read this week’s passages, what do they tell us we should believe in?