



THE SCROLLS

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

This week's practice: Worship

For the week of September 19th, 2005

Beliefs

- T rinity
- Salvation 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

Carrying Other Peoples' Bricks

Some people are quick to tell you what to do in order to please God. And they can get quite insistent that theirs is not just the best way; it's the only way.

*Some people bring you gifts
 Some bring you bricks to weigh you down
 So they can swim a little higher while you drown
 Some people mean so well
 Their way was the best way that they found
 But any other way you choose is a brick that weighs you down
 (Let it Be, Superchic[k], Karaoke Superstars)*

Paul has a lot to say in this week's passage about true worship, freedom in Christ and the loads others will still try to put on us.



Wor-ship, v.: To regard with ardent or adoring esteem or devotion

Monday – Shadows and Reality

Please read Col. 2:16-23 (focus on 16&17) and 1 Corinthians 13:9, 12

1. Do people today still judge others by what they eat or drink, or how they celebrate? In what ways have you seen this judgemental spirit?
2. What did Paul mean by calling these things a "shadow" (verse 17)? Do Paul's comments in 1 Cor. 13 help explain what he means by shadow?
3. What do you think is the reality found in Christ? How does 1 Corinthians 13:12 help you understand the nature of that reality?

Digging Deeper – Can you think of a time when you lost your focus and clung to a shadow rather than the reality found in Christ? Are you still doing it?

Tuesday – Getting a Big Head

"In Charles Dickens' great novel David Copperfield, Uriah Heep is a clerk of Mr. Wickfield, a lawyer whose daughter Agnes eventually marries David. Heep aggressively presents himself as 'umble,' but in fact he is malicious and designing, and blackmails Mr. Wickfield. The name Uriah Heep has become a symbol of someone who is hypocritically humble but dangerously malignant. [To] "Uriah Heep one's way through life" would mean 'to go through life pretending to be humble while actually being ruthlessly calculating'."

Words at Random,

www.randomhouse.com/wotd

Please read Colossians 2:18-19 and Ephesians 4:15-16

1. Have you ever known someone in real life or seen a character portrayal in a movie or book who was like Uriah Heep (see quote above)?
2. What are the Head and Body Paul refers to?
3. How do you think false humility is symptomatic of someone who has lost connection with the Head?
4. In our time, there are some religions that still promote angel worship. Other times, false worship is more subtle. What are some of the lesser beings/things that people worship today? How do you keep yourself from this form of idol worship?

Wednesday – The World's Rules Pass Away

Please read Col. 2:20-22 and 1 Corinthians 10:23-24

1. What types of things do you think the Colossian believers were being told not to handle, taste or touch?
2. Where do you think these rules were coming from? Would you expect anyone to suggest these same restrictions today? Why or why not?
3. Sometimes relying on a set of rules can make life look a little easier. But what did Paul say is wrong with these types of rules? (Please turn over)

Putting it into Practice – In light of 1 Corinthians 10:23-24, do you think Paul wanted believers to do whatever they wished? What types of things are you allowed to handle, taste or touch, but should not because of your responsibility to others? Can you think of any freedoms you may need to give up in order to serve others?

Thursday – The Appearance of Wisdom

Please read Colossians 2:23 and 1 Timothy 4:1-4

1. In 1 Timothy 4, Paul gets specific about some teachings that comprise false wisdom. What do you think motivated these false teachers?
2. Do you see any rules today that rely on this type of false wisdom?
3. What is the main problem Paul identifies with these types of rules? (Look at the very end of verse 23.) Why do these false teachings fail to achieve their intended result (restraining the body's indulgences)?
4. What are we to do with the good things God gives us? (1 Timothy 4:4.) What do you need to thank God for?

Friday – Empty Worship

Please read Mark 7:6-13 and Acts 17:11

1. When Jesus quoted Isaiah, what did he say led to empty worship? Jesus contrasted man-made rules with obedience to God. What is the difference between the two?
2. These man-made traditions had a disastrous result, according to verse 13. What religious practices do you see today that are a dangerous substitute for the word of God?
3. Jesus referred to and relied upon scripture in confronting the Pharisees. Where in your life do you need stop clinging to the standards of the world and look to the Bible for guidance?
4. Has a Christian leader (whether in a book, on the radio or TV, or in a sermon) ever tried to lay a man-made tradition on you? What steps can you take to be ready to recognize biblical truths and reject worldly teachings? (Check Acts 17:11)

Saturday – God's Riches, Our Trash

Please read Mark 7:14-23 and 1 Tim. 4:4

1. According to Jesus, what is the source of our sin?
2. Jesus does not appear to list every type of sin in detail in verses 21 and 22, but to cover them generally. What specifics can you put in, according to those you see in your own life?
3. Jesus' words in verses 18 and 19 are good news for those who want to enjoy God's good gifts. How are we to enjoy that goodness? (Look closely at 1 Timothy 4:4.)

Digging Deeper - Read Isaiah 58. How are your sins (the things that come out of you, as Jesus said) interfering with your ability to worship God? Look again at Isaiah 58:9-11. Are you ready to call on the Lord and hear His answer?

Small Group Discussion

This section is designed for Home Groups and Small Groups who would like to discuss the Scrolls together.

Please read Colossians 2:16-23.

1. How does 1 Corinthians 13:9 and 13:12 help you understand the shadow and reality Paul describes in Colossians 2:16-17?
2. Colossians 2:23 talks about "self-imposed worship." Think about some of the "religious" rules you formerly followed that you have now rejected. Ask group members to share why they rejected them.
3. Take a look at John 4:23 and the definition of the word *worship* at the beginning of this edition of the scrolls. True worship is not a set of activities that we take part in on Sunday mornings. It is a lifestyle that shows you believe God is truly worthy of your praise and devotion. How do some of our ideas of worship fall short of the true definition? In what ways do we need to expand our definition of worship?
4. True worship apparently affects Christ's body, the church. (See Colossians 2:19.) How?
5. What can you do to help others to worship truly? Let group members suggest things that others may find useful, and don't limit yourselves to ministries like teaching or song-leading. Spend some time on this if you can, and be creative.



Closing – Close by going around the group and giving people a chance to share one way they will act to adopt a lifestyle of worship, or take a practical step to help others to do so.