

10.13.21 – A Weekly Word for Covenant Church

Title: “Christ Only!”

Scripture Reading: [Colossians 2:8-23](#)

Reflection: Rev. George Vink

Many of us remember the bracelets, bumper stickers, and other reminders with the letters “WWJD.” They stood for “What Would Jesus Do?” and were supposed to remind us how to deal with challenging or difficult situations. I didn’t like it! I suggested to my catechumens that it should read, “What Would Jesus Have Me Do?” The fact is, I simply cannot do what Jesus would do. He healed lepers, Peter’s mother-in-law, and others while also being able to walk on water. I should, however, do what I can with the abilities God’s given me, remembering Jesus’ way with people and situations.

The Colossian letter emphasizes the need to stay focused on Christ and following Jesus. In our reading today, Paul warned about ceremonialism and asceticism, followed by focusing on festivals, circumcision, and dietary restrictions. Sadly enough, today we wander from the basics in similar ways. Angel worship as reflected in vs 18 might apply today to our fascination with political or entertainment “stars.” Doing so leads to drawing away the focus from following the Jesus whom Paul proclaimed while emphasizing Jesus’ adequacy.

Also, some folks in Paul’s day put an emphasis on knowing certain things in special ways, having special knowledge of sorts, and focusing on human wisdom and tradition. All these served as devious ways of being led astray and still do so in similar ways. Cruise a while among the social media gurus and you’ll see it.

Then, come with me to Colossians’ challenge to our following Jesus faithfully. It’s rather clear in verse 8’s warning, “See to that no one takes you captive...which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.” Reading it again, can or dare we miss what’s obvious? There are trends, ways of thinking today that have taken too many of us captive. Too many claiming to be Christian are not following Christ. Too many have allegiances that deny Christ’s teachings, that blatantly contradict what Jesus taught. The question I need to ask myself, as you must, “Whom am I following?” And, “How does it show?”

Prayer:

Father of Jesus, hear my prayer as I seek to follow where your son Jesus led the way. I’m inclined to go with the crowd, too intent on going along to get along. There are various deceptive distractions demanding my allegiance and consequently leading me astray. Please give me insight to see clearly what’s happening and power to follow Jesus, humbly and obediently.

Action Item for the Day/Week:

Take a hard look at what you’ve said and done in the last 48 hours. In what ways does it reflect a “spirit of the age” that is clearly not “the way of truth” that Jesus taught.

Songs for today:

[In Christ Alone](#)

[Trust & Obey](#)