

LESSON 2

THE WHOLE TRUTH AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH

COLOSSIANS 1:15—2:5



1 Who has been quoted out of context in the news recently?

2 How do people twist the truth without telling outright lies?



Read Colossians 1:15—2:5, the charts “The Colossian Heresy” and “Salvation through Faith,” and the following notes:

☐ 1:15, 16 ☐ 1:15–23 ☐ 1:20 ☐ 1:21, 22 ☐ 1:22, 23 ☐ 1:24 ☐ 1:28, 29
☐ 2:4ff

3 What does 1:15–23 tell about the person and work of Jesus Christ?

4 What does 1:24—2:5 say about the role and responsibility of all believers?

5 Review the chart “The Colossian Heresy.” How could such a distorted view of the gospel be attractive to people? Why was it so harmful for the believers?

6 Why are people often tempted to add to the simple truth of the gospel?



An insidious heresy was plaguing the church in Colosse—it added a deeper or special knowledge to the gospel. Paul refutes this heresy and urges the Colossians to trust in Christ alone. Whenever we add anything to the gospel, or take anything away, the effect is the same—we diminish Christ. By adding requirements for salvation, or less important doctrines, or any other element of man-made religion, we imply that the work of Christ somehow fell short of what people needed to be reconciled to God. All we need is Christ! Make sure that you understand this and that you communicate it clearly when sharing your faith with others.

7 What are some modern distortions of the gospel message?

8 What might some people like to remove from the gospel? What might some like to add to the gospel?



9 What can you do to protect yourself from distortions of the gospel?

10 Why is it so hard to accept the fact that we can do nothing to earn our salvation?

11 What would you tell someone who sincerely wanted to become a Christian?

12 Why is it important to communicate the gospel clearly?

13 Whom do you know who needs a clear presentation of the gospel? What first step can you take to tell that person about Christ?



A Why does Paul say so little about the human attributes of Christ? What essential human qualities are presented?

B Why is the gospel a mystery to some people? Why might some Christians want to keep this sense of mystery about it?

C What do you think Paul meant in complimenting the Colossian church for being orderly?

D How does truth encourage and unite believers?

E Why do many Christians often feel uncomfortable about sharing their faith? What can be done to overcome these uncomfortable feelings?

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