

MAIN POINT

We conquer sin by focusing on Christ, walking in the Spirit, and fixing our eyes on heaven.

INTRODUCTION

What is one of the strangest or silliest rules you have ever been asked to follow?

Have you every tried to make someone follow a rule you were given, even if it didn't apply to them? Why are we prone to do this?

It can be easy to feel like we don't measure up. The weight of our sin is heavy and sometimes it seems like we can only see what we are doing wrong or the rules we have broken. Sometimes, we are led to believe that our sin disqualifies us from the love of God. But this is not true! In the book of Colossians, Paul told the church they didn't need to seek out "super spiritual" practices to experience the fullness of Christ. Through our relationship with Jesus, we have victory over sin and fellowship with Him and one another. He has filled us with His Spirit so we now belong to Him. As we face the difficulties of life, because of what we've done or simply as a result of the brokenness of the world, we have hope, knowing we are secure in Christ and heaven awaits us.

DISCUSSION

> READ COLOSSIANS 2:16-3:4

Paul wrote against the belief that there are rituals one must perform to be accepted by God. Do you ever feel like there are certain things you must do to be truly accepted by Christ? What are these things?

What did Paul mean when he wrote "let no one disqualify you"? How has Christ qualified us completely?

The false teachers wanted the Colossians to follow their version of the law. How does thinking we can please God by keeping the law puff us up?

Why do we tend to keep a "scorecard" in the Christian life? How does this way of thinking cause us to submit to rules rather than Christ?

How do legalistic rules intended to stop our sinful nature actually engage our sinful nature? What is an example of this?

What does it mean to seek what is above? How do we do that? What are the benefits of seeking what is above? What are the pitfalls of keeping our minds set on the things of the earth?

APPLICATION

How should our future hope change our day-to-day focus? How will you practice "seeking what is above" this week?