

# LOOKING UP!

By Matt Huddleston

**H**ow real is your faith? Paul taught the church in Colossae (Col 2:6-8), “as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.”

In March 2006, a city dump truck backed into Curtis Gokey’s car. The car was damaged badly, so Curtis sued the city of Lodi, CA, for \$3,600.

The catch? Curtis Gokey was driving the city dump truck that crunched his personal car. He even admitted the accident was his fault. The city dropped the lawsuit, stating that Gokey could not sue himself.

Like Gokey, we are often our own worst enemies. Rather than shifting the blame for the damage we do, we would do well to acknowledge our fault and humbly accept the consequences.

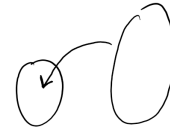
At one point in a debate, Abraham Lincoln was accused by his opponent, Douglas, of being two-faced. “I leave it to my audience,” replied Lincoln, “If I had two faces, would I be wearing this one?”

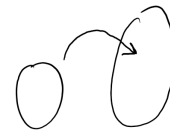
Spiritually, we are suckered out of the grace and mercy God provides, fighting for the simple morsels we might win. Paul’s teaching shows, “When you were dead in your sins... God made you alive with Christ. He forgave all our sins, canceled the charge against us. He has taken it away, nailing it to the cross.” Look up and see his gift of grace.


# SERMON NOTES

**IN**

October 10

 **In** \_\_\_\_\_

 **In** \_\_\_\_\_

 **In** \_\_\_\_\_

◆ **Opposite**

◇ In \_\_\_\_\_ or In \_\_\_\_\_

◇ In \_\_\_\_\_ or In \_\_\_\_\_

◇ In \_\_\_\_\_ or In \_\_\_\_\_

◆ **Greater** \_\_\_\_\_ **IN** \_\_\_\_\_

Oct. 17, 2021

Col. 3:5-10

**Next Week:**

**ME**

MATT HUDDLESTON

## PERSONAL STUDY

It is rewarding to invest time each day in God's Word.

### **Mo** Colossians 2:1

How hard was Paul working to share the gospel with those he had not personally met? Take time today to encourage three Christian friends to be zealous in sharing their faith with their friends and family.

### **Tu** Colossians 2:8

Celebrate today in the spiritual knowledge God has given to you. Confess to Him the incorrect human traditions you have held on to in the past.

### **We** Colossians 2:9

Here Paul highlights the fullness of the Godhead in Christ's physical body, teaching that Christ has superiority over all other things or claims of deity (Acts 17:29 & Rom. 1:20). Take time to worship Him today.

### **Th** Colossians 2:10

The fullness of God lives in Christ and now in you! Notice "you have been brought" is past-tense. God is not limited by time and sees the completion of His plan. He is certain in all that He says!

### **Fr** Colossians 2:12

There is only one way to the Father (John 14:6). And baptism is only one way into Christ. If you've committed to being in Christ, thank Him for his gift. If not, read Col. 2:12-15 to see the blessing of life in Christ.

### **Sa** Colossians 2:19

Paul is writing to a group of believers who have stopped believing in some aspects of Jesus' superior nature. Ask God to draw you close to Him and help you grow, as only He can do.

## STUDY & DISCUSS

- Read Colossians chapter 2. Take turns reading one verse at a time.
- Matt's summary - Jesus has brought us from death to life. He is triumphant over everything, and we can now live IN Christ and Christ IN us. Look at these supporting verses and then discuss the following ideas:
  - ◇ Since you have been brought from death to life, what did your former life look like, or what would your life look like if Christ had not saved you?
    - ◆ John 11:25, Rom. 6:23, Rom. 8:1-2
  - ◇ Triumphant! Jesus was triumphant in the past overcoming death. He will be triumphant in the future, defeating Satan and calling us all home. How have you seen him be triumphant in your life or our congregation?
    - ◆ 1 Cor. 15:57, 2 Cor. 2:14, Phil. 4:19
  - ◇ Christ is IN us, and we are IN Christ. What is the difference between these two statements?
    - ◆ 1 Cor. 12:26-27, Gal. 3:27-28
- Memorize Colossians 2:6-7 this week. Write it down and place it somewhere you'll see it throughout your day. How could daily reflecting on these verses impact your week?
- How could you live in a way that reflects you've died to the things of this world this week?
- What are some worldly examples of spiritual success? How have they plagued the church in the past?