

Saturday & Sunday, October 14 & 15, 2017 - "Shadow Worship" - Doug Kempton

Key Passages: Colossians 2:16-23, Colossians 2:6-15

- Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group
- Allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday's message

Main Ideas

- Colossians 2:6-7 - We are encouraged to make Jesus the Lord of our lives
 - It is really about following His lead because He knows what's best for us
 - v10: we are infused with the power of God in our everyday lives
 - **we walk in HIM**
- Colossians 2:8 - We can be taken captive
 - Prosperity Gospel, Relational idolatry, Self-reliance, Relativism
 - We are in danger of being taken by bad thinking...BUT we can also lose track right here in the church
- Colossians 2:16-23 - Main idea of this passage is a warning against "rules" and "religious activities"
 - Reference to Jewish festivals, holidays, customs (i.e. passover, monthly celebration of the new moon, sabbath)
 - Asceticism = practicing strict discipline (poverty, self denial, minimalism) and judging others for not doing it
 - The things in this passage aren't really for us right?
 - But we have to ask ourselves, "What are the religious practices of our day that become an idol for us?"
- We take the good things God has given us and make them idols
 - We think it's easier to follow a religious practice than to follow God
 - If we can just make a list and follow it, we will be all set → this becomes a list of do's and don'ts
 - Some of the things that end up on our "list" are good things BUT...
 - v17: These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ
- We are at risk of becoming **Shadow worshippers**
 - The shadows can be good things
 - But when we elevate things to the wrong place we miss out on the true substance
- 5 Common Pitfalls of Shadow Worship
 - 1) The Sacraments (Baptism and communion)
 - Communion is to remember what Jesus is accomplished, not to be worshipped
 - Baptism is a supernatural thing BUT it doesn't save us
 - 2) The Bible
 - Reading for knowledge VS. God teaching us and changing us
 - John 5:39 - The Bible is a SOURCE of revelation about JESUS
 - 3) The Weekend Gathering
 - If you come to church to check a box, ease your guilt or appease God → the shadow
 - The idea that Jesus can and does speak to us and bring us life throughout the week
 - 4) Music
 - Doug seeing the people raising their hands at the U2 concert
 - It's FOR God and not FOR us
 - If we are chasing a feeling or a particular song, we're missing out on interacting with Jesus
 - 5) Holiness
 - Legalism: living by the list
 - We should have dos and donts, but a better questions is what is keeping me from experiencing Christ
- Colossians 3:16-17: Our life and activities are found in nothing else but Jesus. He is the substance.

Questions (Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these)

1. How has God been challenging you to make Him the Lord of your life?
2. Thinking of the ways Doug mentioned last week or that you deal with personally, how are you vulnerable to being taken captive by the thinking/ways of the world?
3. Explain how you have experienced becoming a "shadow worshipper" in your own life.
4. Talk about a time when you struggled to live by "the list" verses being lead by Jesus and your love for and devotion to Him.
5. Do you relate to one or more of the 5 common pitfalls of shadow worship? Explain how and why?
6. What is God inviting you into as a result of this passage or message?

****15 Minutes with God Reading Plan-**

Mon: John 16 Tues: John 17 Wed: John 18 Thurs: John 19 Fri: John 20