

June 11, 2006

Series: Against the Tide

Sermon: "Think Like a Christian"

Scripture:

⁸See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.

⁹For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, ¹⁰and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority. ¹¹In him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ, ¹²having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.

¹³When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, ¹⁴having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

-Colossians 2:8-15 (New International Version)

Introduction:

- There is nothing new about New Age or any other humanist philosophy on the market
- Humanist philosophies teach that you only need yourself to achieve personal salvation.
- The Bible teaches you need Christ alone.
- Colossians 2:8, "See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ."
- Everything we need we have in Christ.

I. In Christ we have the fullness of God.

- Colossians 2:9-10, "For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head

over every power and authority."

- To experience God is to have a personal relationship with His Son - Jesus Christ.
- When you have a relationship with Christ, you have all that God has to offer.

II. In Christ we have forgiveness of sins.

- What ever happened to sin?
- The fact that God offers us forgiveness is evidence that we need forgiveness.
- Romans 3:23, "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."
- Colossians 2:13, "When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins,"
- Admitting that we have a problem with sin is admitting that we need a Savior.
- I John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
- There are consequences to our sins.

III. In Christ we have freedom from the law.

- Colossians 2:14, "having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross."
- The written code refers to the law.
- James 2:10, "For whosoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it."
- When you accept Christ as Savior and Lord, you are no longer judged by law but by grace.
- I Corinthians 6:12, "Everything is permissible for me, but I will not be mastered by anything."

Conclusion:

- In Christ we have everything we need:
 - God's fullness
 - Unconditional forgiveness
 - Total freedom