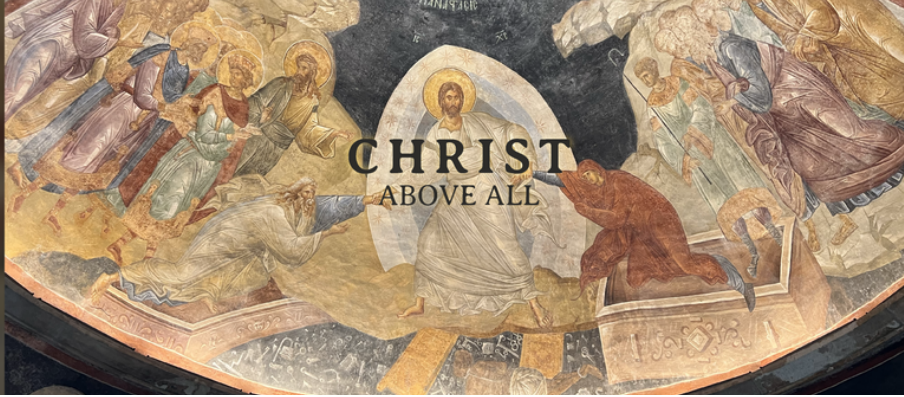




WEEK 2 - THE POWERS DISARMED

OVERVIEW

As we continue exploring Colossians, we will dig deeper into the mixing (a.k.a. "syncretism") which is happening in the church today between the gospel of Jesus and the powers of this world. We will specifically explore the god of Domination and the god of Self, which have so infected our body with "empty philosophies" and "high-sounding nonsense." To untangle their influence over us, we will explore what it means for Christ to have "disarmed the rulers and authorities" of our world, and what it looks like for us to reject their influence in our own lives. By repenting of our syncretism and re-focusing on Christ above all, we may yet find a way to live in this broken world set free from the powers seeking to corrupt the gospel.

Don't let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ.

Colossians 2:8

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. If you are willing, share what has been popping up in your feed lately (cat videos? gardening tips?).
2. Describe "syncretism". In what ways could "syncretism" be happening in the church today?
3. Read Colossians 2:6-10.
 - a. How can you tell if you are rooting your life in self or in Jesus Christ?
 - b. Why do you think Paul uses the imagery of roots in this passage?
 - c. What are some examples of things that could be "empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense" today?
4. How is the church made up of difference? (see Colossians 3:11). Is it possible to worship together and do life together if we have so much difference among us? If so, how?
5. Read Colossians 2:13-15. What would it look like to live each day remembering that Christ has already won and that "love can afford to lose" instead of "Christianity must win"?
6. Barry asked us to consider the influencers and politicians we listen to, and the media and news we consume. What kind of fruit do they generate in you?
7. What is God inviting you to today?