



SERMON

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

WEEK 8: Colossians 2:13-15

- 1) Begin your time by briefly praying and asking the Holy Spirit to help you as you discuss and study.
- 2) Now, read Colossians 2:13-15 together.
- 3) What stuck out to you as you read? Was there anything that you didn't understand? Discuss.
- 4) In verse 13, Paul begins by describing who we were before we came to know Jesus. He says we were dead, we were trespassers, and we had uncircumcised flesh (sinful natures). Talk through each of these descriptions as a group. Which one best describes your life before Christ?
- 5) In the second half of verse 13, and in verse 14, Paul describes what Jesus has done for us. Jesus made us alive, forgave all our trespasses, and cancelled the record of debt that we owed because of our sin. And He did all of this through the cross. Discuss as a group why the cross is important? Could Jesus have accomplished all of this without dying on the cross?
- 6) In verse 15, Paul moves on to describing what Jesus death on the cross accomplished in the universe. He says that Jesus disarmed rulers and authorities and put them to open shame. This verse is talking about demonic powers.

Here's what the ESV Study Bible says about this verse:

He disarmed the rulers and authorities The cross of Christ marks the decisive defeat of the demonic powers. On the cross, they were stripped of their power to accuse Christians before God. (Gk. *diabolos*, "devil," means "accuser, slanderer.") Nevertheless, these demons continue to exist and to exercise power to incite evil, so Christians must continue to struggle with them (see Eph. 6:12, 16).

put them to open shame. This is the same term (Gk. *deigmatizō*) used in Matt. 1:19 to refer to Joseph's unwillingness to expose Mary's pregnancy and bring public shame on her. The cross publicly reveals the failure of the demonic powers to thwart God's plan of salvation through Christ (see 1 Cor. 2:6–8).

triumphing over them. The image is of a triumphal Roman military procession. The defeated king with all of his surviving warriors and the spoils of war were paraded through the streets of Rome, as a public spectacle for all to see.

Did you know that Jesus accomplished all of this on the cross? Why was it important that the rulers and demons were defeated?

- 7) Have you ever felt like you were around demonic activity? Describe what that was like. What should we do in situations like that?
- 8) The Bible says that "for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world" [1 John 4:4]. We don't have to be scared if we come into contact with demonic activity because Jesus has already defeated the rulers and authorities. Jesus is more powerful than any other power, authority, sickness, hardship, etc. In what area of your life do you need to remember this right now?
- 9) End your time in prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to help apply to your life what you've been learning and discussing.