

Out of the Shadows (Colossians 2:16-23)

When light hits an object, it creates a shadow, a dark copy of the original. If you only ever saw the shadow of an object but not the object itself, it would be incomplete and misleading. This is the way spirituality and religion are if they are void of Christ. To be a “Christian” but not know Christ, or to be spiritual without the Spirit is to miss something. Christ is the source of our Christianity.

1. Don't Settle for Shadows

- The shadow of self-made religion
- The shadow of theological arrogance

2. Christ is the Substance

- Christ is the Head of the body of Christ
- All spiritual growth flows through Christ and comes from God
- It is our identity and our place in the body of Christ that determines our behavior, not the other way around...

QUESTIONS (Pray, read the passage and pick 4-5 questions to discuss. Trust the Holy Spirit to guide.)

1. Where in our city do you see “spirituality”? How is it possible to be spiritual but miss the Holy Spirit and the gospel of grace?
2. How can religious activity take the place of a love for Jesus?
3. Can you think of examples of “self-made religions” in our world today?
4. As we grow in our knowledge of the Scriptures, how can we be tempted with arrogance?
5. Do you ever find yourself looking down on other believers because they don't seem as knowledgeable or mature as you?
6. As we hold fast to Jesus, we are nourished by Him. What are some ways you find nourishment in Jesus? Are there areas you want to grow in when it comes to finding your satisfaction in Jesus?