FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION (Colossians 2:8-23)

1. Is there anything specific from this message that the Lord has impressed upon your heart?
If so, what is it & how do you feel the Lord calling you to respond?

2. In verse 8, Paul writes about not being taken captive by philosophy and empty deceit - anything that is not grounded in Christ.
Have you ever experienced seasons where you were being taken captive in those ways?
What was the situation and how were you ultimately able to recognize it for what it was, and then return to Christ?

3. Read verses 9-12 - why is this description of Jesus and His work in our lives so important?
Why is it particularly important to understand this in light of what was coming against the Colossians?

4. According to verses 13-15 who were we before Christ, and who are are we now because of Christ?
Why is it necessary for all of us to rightly understand this?

5. Have you ever been prone toward legalism, asceticism, or some other form of man-made religion?
If so, what which form did it take in your life, and how have you been able to overcome those challenges?
Why are these so damaging and detrimental to our own well-being and to our testimony of the goodness of Christ?

6. What does it look like in our lives for us to genuinely cling and hold fast to the goodness of the Gospel of life in Christ?
Practically speaking, how do we "walk in Christ" and stay connected to the True Vine (John 15:5)?

7. Below are the "Today's Takeaways" from the end of the sermon.
Do any of these particularly encourage, convict, challenge, you, and if so, how?

1. We have to rightly understand our position before God!
Apart from Christ, we are dead in our trespasses/sins!
In Christ, we're made alive & are forgiven of all our sins!

2. The reality of Christ > the delusion of the Enemy!
Ignorance isn't bliss when it leads us to hell!

3. Cling to the truth of the Gospel in Christ alone!
Don't let anything else take priority in your heart/mind!