

## The Power of His Presence *Partakers of the Divine Nature*

Sunday, May 2, 2021

### Colossians 2: 18-23 NLT

<sup>18</sup>Don't let anyone condemn you by insisting on pious self-denial or the worship of angels, saying they have had visions about these things. Their sinful minds have made them proud, <sup>19</sup>and they are not connected to Christ, the head of the body. For he holds the whole body together with its joints and ligaments, and it grows as God nourishes it. <sup>20</sup>**You have died with Christ, and he has set you free from the spiritual powers of this world.** So why do you keep on following the rules of the world, such as, <sup>21</sup>"Don't handle! Don't taste! Don't touch!"? <sup>22</sup>Such rules are mere human teachings about things that deteriorate as we use them. <sup>23</sup>These rules may seem wise because they require strong devotion, pious self-denial, and severe bodily discipline. But they provide no help in conquering a person's evil desires.

### 2 Peter 1: 3-4 NIV

<sup>3</sup>**His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life** through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. <sup>4</sup>Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that **through them you may participate in the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

#### 1. Cease Striving, Enter His Rest

Psalm 46:10 Be still, cease striving, let go, relax *and know*, that I AM God.  
John 5:19 The Son can do nothing by himself; only what the Father does.  
Matthew 11: 29-30 Take My yoke, learn from Me and find rest.

#### 2. Fix Our Eyes on Christ

Hebrews 12:2 Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.  
Hebrews 3:1 Fix your thoughts on Jesus, our apostle and high priest.

#### 3. Redefined "I"

Galatians 2:20 I no longer live. Christ lives in me.  
Acts 17:28 *In Him*, we live and move and have our being.  
Philippians 4:13 I can do all things *through Christ* who strengthens me.

**Conclusion:** I do nothing on my own initiative, but only what I see and hear through His Spirit in me. I cling to the Head where my strength comes from. I partake in the divine nature flowing in me.

Christ is my life.

## LIFE GROUP LESSON *Partakers of the Divine Nature*

Week of May 2 – May 8, 2021

**Ice Breaker:** What is more comfortable to you—following rules or tuning to the flow of Christ's words guiding you? Why?

### Read Colossians 2: 18-23.

1. What is Paul warning against in v. 18?
2. Is extreme self-denial good? When or when not? What is key?
3. Who are we as Christians to worship?
4. How might you see something like these beliefs praised in religion?
5. What danger and truth does Paul share? What is of utmost importance in Christianity? (v. 19) How can this be muddled in religion?
6. Who holds the Body together? Who nourishes the Body? (v.19)
7. What does Paul teach and ask in vs. 20-21?
8. Is it wrong to have rules? Why or why not?
9. What problem does Paul address in vs. 22-23?
10. What truth does Paul reveal at the end of v. 23? Who is the only One who helps us overcome our sinful nature?
11. **Read 2 Peter 1: 3-4.** What do we have within us as we believe in Christ? To do what? What is our purpose as a Christian?
12. What does God give us in His Word, revealed through His Spirit? (v.4) What do these promises enable us to do through His Spirit?
13. What do we read is the way to escape evil desires? Appearing *religious* or participating in the divine nature at work in us?
14. Read Psalm 46:10—expanded. Are we measured as a Christian based on our performance (religion), or obedience and faithfulness to God?
15. Read John 5:19 When Jesus walked the earth, did he do *what he wanted*, following man-made rules or did he look and listen for God's direction in every aspect of his life? Shouldn't we heed his example?
16. Read Galatians 2:20. What does this Scripture mean for you? Have you fully received and embraced this truth? Who is the "I" in Scripture once you receive Christ as your Lord and Savior? You as an independent? Or you fused to Christ?
17. Read Acts 17:28. How do we live as Christians? *Are you doing that?*
18. Read Philippians 4:13. Who is the "I" referring to? You or Christ in you? Where does your strength truly come from?

**Point to ponder:** We have been given the amazing privilege to be participants of the divine nature dwelling in us. We are fused to glory and the power of the Living God flowing in us. We are no longer our own. We no longer live. Christ lives His life through us.