
Spiritual Claims, or Reality?

I. Spiritual Mysteries (Col. 2:4-8)

*Don't be taken in by human reasonings!
Remember what you've received!*

Spiritual mystery is solved in Christ.

Stick to the course you've started!

II. Spiritual Deficiencies (Col. 2:9-15)

Christ Jesus is fully God and man.

Spiritual completeness is gained by union with Christ.

In Christ the powerful deficiencies overcome include:

Sinful nature – power cut off

Death – turned to life

Transgressions – forgiven

Debt to God – lifted

Evil spirits – disarmed

Why would you turn anywhere else?

Are my actions consistent with spiritual reality?

Application Questions - *These questions are provided for your further study and application of the subject of today's message. Thoughtfully writing out answers to these questions will help drive home the point. They are designed to be discussed in your home, with other believers, and in a Life Group, for even more benefit.*

1. Look at your life as if you were someone that knows you well, and is observing you. What advice would you give for living a more consistent Christian life?

2. Paul & Jude write about worldly talk and ideas in 1 Timothy 4:7; 6:20-21; 2 Timothy 2:16; and Jude 1:19. What do they urge their readers to do in relation to it, and what do they warn it will cause?

Do you see any worldly ideas and their outcomes in Christianity in America today? Explain.

In what area(s) of life do you feel the pull of the world? How does giving in affect you in living the Christian life? What's your best defense against it?

3. Read Ephesians 1:3-14. What are some of the realities pointed out in these verses for the Christian through their union with Christ?

How does knowing these realities help you live the Christian life more fully?

4. What does the author of Hebrews say about endurance in Hebrews 10:36 & 12:1, and why?

In what area does Jesus stress the need to "stay the course"? (John 8:31-32) Why?

Think about the connection between knowing and doing the Christian life. Where does it tend to break down? What can you do to guard against it?

5. What is the main application of this study, and/or the sermon this week and its passages, for you?