



*See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ. – Col. 2:8*

In the Christian life, we never stand still: we either go forward or gradually slip backward. "Let us go on to maturity!" is the call we must obey (Heb. 6:1, literal translation). The Christian who is not making spiritual progress is an open target for the enemy to attack and destroy.

### Alive and Alert ... Colossians 2:4-15

#### I. The Need for \_\_\_\_\_ ... vs. 4-7

A few vivid pictures to illustrate spiritual progress ...

- An \_\_\_\_\_ (5) ... *disciplined you are*
- A \_\_\_\_\_ (6) ... *continue to live (walk out) your lives in him*
- A \_\_\_\_\_ (7) ... *rooted ... in Him*
- A \_\_\_\_\_ (7) ... *built up in Him*
- A \_\_\_\_\_ (7) ... *strengthened in the faith as you were taught*
- A \_\_\_\_\_ (7) ... *overflowing with thankfulness*

#### II. The Warning of \_\_\_\_\_ ... vs. 8-10

As followers of Christ, if we are not filled up with Him, the void will be an \_\_\_\_\_ for the influences of this world.

#### III. The Benefit of God-Provided Provisions ... vs. 11-15

- \_\_\_\_\_ in Him (11)
- \_\_\_\_\_ in Him (12-13)
- \_\_\_\_\_ from the Law in Him (14)
- \_\_\_\_\_ in Him (15)

### Let's Consider ...

- I. There is no such thing as a \_\_\_\_\_, you will either be growing, or you will be slipping back.
- II. The devil, the flesh, and the world are strong \_\_\_\_\_ on a believer who is not growing and alert.
- III. What are you doing to \_\_\_\_\_?

1. We all have different tendencies when it comes to rules and guidelines. Would you tend to be a rule maker/follower or a rule breaker? Has it changed over the years? How is this different or the same from the home you grew up in?

Why do you think most of us change or at least have a season of change that tends to include some rebellion?

2. Consider the illustrative pictures found under point 1 in your notes. How do each of the images illustrate an important component of our spiritual growth and development? You may need to read Colossians 2:5-7 again to see the images portrayed.

Do you identify with one of the illustrations more than the others? Is there one in which you are excelling? Is there one in which you are struggling?

3. A primary goal in any competitive sport is to maximize your effectiveness by cutting away anything that holds you back and to commit to growing in your competitiveness. One of the goals of this weekend's teaching was to focus on the issues that really matter when it comes to your spiritual growth and following Jesus. It can be as simple as follow and obey. How do the following verses affect your definition of what it means to follow and obey?

Romans 8:5-8

Galatians 5:13-15

James 4:17

Did you discover anything that troubles you in these verses?

4. Here are some more challenging questions that will be great to ponder among your small group.
  - a. Where is the balance between "resting in Christ" and "applying all diligence" to grow in Him? How can we know whether our diligence is a work of the flesh or of the Spirit?
  - b. Can we have an improper motive for spiritual growth? How can we discern our motives for spiritual growth? Why are right motives essential?
  - c. Can you identify any modern examples of religious rules that often take on a status equal to Scripture. Are all such rules bad? Why/why not?



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## Alive and Alert ... Colossians 2:4-15

### I. The Need for **Spiritual Progress** ... vs. 4-7

A few vivid pictures to illustrate spiritual progress ...

- An **Army** (5) ... *disciplined you are*
- A **Pilgrimage** (6) ... *continue to live (walk out) your lives in him*
- A **Tree** (7) ... *rooted ... in Him*
- A **Building** (7) ... *built up in Him*
- A **School** (7) ... *strengthened in the faith as you were taught*
- A **River** (7) ... *overflowing with thankfulness*

### II. The Warning of **Worldly Entrapment** ... vs. 8-10

As followers of Christ, if we are not filled up with Him, the void will be an **open door** for the influences of this world.

### III. The Benefit of God-Provided Provisions ... vs. 11-15

- **Circumcised** in Him (11)
- **Alive** in Him (12-13)
- **Free** from the Law in Him (14)
- **Victorious** in Him (15)

## Let's Consider ...

- I. There is no such thing as a **stable Christian**, you will either be growing, or you will be slipping back.
- II. The devil, the flesh, and the world are strong **influences** on a believer who is not growing and alert.
- III. What are you doing to **grow spiritually**?

1. **We all have different tendencies when it comes to rules and guidelines. Would you tend to be a rule maker/follower or a rule breaker? Has it changed over the years? How is this different or the same from the home you grew up in?**

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