

Gut check questions:

- If all of history points to Jesus Christ where does my life currently line up with Him?
- If Jesus is the greatest gift I could ever receive, then how much joy will I experience when I give and serve in His name?

**JESUS CHRIST GIVES CLARITY.**

Colossians 2:8-17

*See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. <sup>9</sup> For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, <sup>10</sup> and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. <sup>11</sup> In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, <sup>12</sup> having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. <sup>13</sup> And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, <sup>14</sup> by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup> He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him. <sup>16</sup> Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. <sup>17</sup> **These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.***

Gifts of the incarnation:

- Rescues us from **wasting** our lives on **empty** things – 2:8
- The **fullness** of life through Jesus Christ – 2:9-10
- A **transformed** heart without the need of meeting **external** requirements – 2:11-12
- Spiritual life when we were **dead**, forgiveness when we were **guilty**, and a clean record from our **debt** of guilt – 2:13-14
- Assurance that no power in the universe can match Jesus Christ – 2:15
- No more **shadows**: We can fully know the identity and character of God – 2:16-17

...None of this would have been possible if Jesus hadn't come.