

Sermon Reflections

Important Reminders for the Spiritually Distracted • Andrew Townshend • (Colossians 1:1-14)

Summary: Warnings are good for us, because we are easily distracted from what our focus should be.

How to Avoid Distraction and Regain Focus:

1. Remember your true identity (vv. 1-2)

- God has brought you salvation and given you a mission. Paul and Timothy were called and commissioned. Are you called by God? How do you know? What commission has God given you? What are you doing daily that gives evidence of your obedience? (v. 1)
- God has set you apart in Christ. (v. 2a) What is the biblical meaning of the word “saint”? List some of the traits or distinctions of saints. It appears that Paul may have never been to Colossae or met the believers there. Yet, in what ways did he show his care and concern for them? Are there people that you know of, that you do not know personally, that you care about? If so, how do you show it? How can you do better at it?
- God has brought you grace and peace. (v. 2b) We see that Paul begins and ends this letter with greetings of grace, just as he does with other letters. What is the significance of grace to the believer? What is the nature or significance of the peace he writes of? What are some other verses that refer to this peace? What indicators do you see in your own life that demonstrate your continual need of this grace and peace? (Fear? Anger?)

2. Remember the true gospel (vv. 3-8)

- Remember the true content of the gospel (vv. 3-5) Discuss the triad of faith, hope and love, and how they are interdependent in the life of the believer.
- Remember the true power of the gospel (v. 6) How is the gospel bearing fruit on your life? Not, what works are you doing to earn salvation, but how is the grace of God demonstrated in your life through the Spirit? See Gal. 5:22-23.
- Remember the true ministers of the gospel (vv. 7-8) Epaphras was a faithful minister. Are all of the ministers you follow ones whose character you should imitate? See 1 Cor. 11:1.

3. Remember your true need (v. 9)

- Read v. 9. What does it look like for you to hunger for the knowledge of His will and spiritual wisdom and understanding? When do you find yourself earnestly searching the scriptures to find God’s will and insight? What steps can you take to grow in your pursuit of God’s will and insight? How does this verse help you pray for others?

3. Remember your true calling (vv. 10-14)

- What does it mean to “walk in a manner worthy of the Lord”? Also, in verses 10b – 12a Paul lists four things that are evidence that one is “walking worthy”. What are they? Do others see these in your life? Ask someone you love if they see these in your life?
- In verses 12-14, Paul tells of the effect of the grace of God in the life of the believer. How can we use these truths to encourage others who may be struggling or downcast?