

## Questions:

1. What pressures do you feel your faith faces today at home; socially; at work and at church?
2. What does freedom in Christ mean for you?
3. What restrictions/regulations do you feel restrict your faith – are there any that help your faith?
4. Can you list the most important changes in your life when you first became a Christian?
5. How fulfilled do you feel in your Christian life – can you analyse the root of it?
6. What helps you keep your foundation in Christ strong? What makes it hard?
7. What stimulates you to give thanks for Christ? Is there anything that makes it hard or what would help you give thanks more often?
8. What do you think of the possible difference between being the best at something in human terms and doing your best for Christ?
9. How could you create a space to listen/be silent before God?
10. Will you (with me) try to spend an extra 10 minutes in God's presence this week?



**Simon Loveless**  
**Sunday 4th March 2018**

# Sermon Notes

**Colossians 2: 6-23**

**Lent 3: Freedom in Christ**

## COLOSSIANS 2 : 6-23 – Freedom in Christ

### 1. Problem solving

#### a) Problems the Colossians faced

- Mixtures of cultures; faiths and philosophies
- Cherry picking

#### b) Problems we face

- i. Cultural pressures
- ii. Church pressures
- iii. Particular pressures for young people

### 2. The solution

#### a) Foundation – verses 6 & 7

- i. Getting our faith feet firm
- ii. Being 'rooted; built up; strengthened'
- iii. Covered by an attitude of thankfulness
- iv. Give thanks for Christian milestones

#### b) Freedom vs 8 and vs 20-23

- i. Dangers of 'philosophy and empty deceit'
- ii. Jewish Gentile influences
- iii. Christian freedom – accepting God's outrageous love
- iv. Tony Campolo: "God carries your picture in His wallet"
- v. Verses 20-23 – Choosing God's way not the world's way

#### c) Fullness – verses 9 – 12

- i. Learning the language of God
- ii. Being fulfilled in Christ
- iii. Realising afresh the victory won by Christ
- iv. Living in the light of unconditional love
- v. What does fullness of life/being fulfilled mean for us

vi. Being fulfilled in Christ

vii. Being the people God wants us to be

viii. "Only when we trust in the one who is entirely worthy of that trust can the wilderness become a place of joyful freedom rather than terrifying danger the wilderness does not change but our reaction to it can" Paula Gooder

ix. Listen/silence – allowing God quality time

### 3. Having a cup of coffee with Christ

Resolving to spend extra quality time with Him

Giving thanks for:

- a) Foundation of Christ;
- b) The freedom in Christ;
- c) The fullness of life in Christ

### 4. Chapter 3 - verses 1 & 2:

"Since, then, you have been raised with Christ,

Set your hearts on things above,

Where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things"