



Introduction to “Poison and Antidote”

Two poisons discussed by Paul in this passage. On one hand, the world will try to poison what you do, the freedoms you enjoy in Christ. Remember, they even tried to stop Jesus from HEALING on the Sabbath. On the other hand, the world will try to poison what you don't do. Again, the religious leaders came at Jesus, asking why his followers didn't fast like John's followers did. In both cases, there is only one antidote, eyes on Christ. And the more we grasp our identity in Christ, the easier it becomes to tune out those who would attempt to poison us, and tune in the hope, joy and fulfillment that comes from our Savior.

Colossians Focus:

The preeminence (superiority, excellence, distinguished, surpassing nature) of Christ in all of life (1:18).

Part 6: Christ First

Text: Colossians 2:6-15

2:16-19 Two Poisons

2:20-23 Illness Old as Time

3:1-4 Only One Antidote

Big Idea: The disciple's view of the world should be defined by his or her view of Christ, not vice versa.

From the Sermon (add your own notes here):

1. Two Poisons

Let no one poison what you do...

Let no one poison what you don't do...

2. Illness Old as Time

- a. Why -- as if you were still a part of the world -- do you submit to the world's regulations?

3. Only One Antidote

Your Father is above. Your savior is above. Your life -- a direct result of being raised from the dead in Christ -- your life is with Christ above.

Getting Started

How can you tell where your mind is set? What behaviors might indicate that you have let the poison sink in, that you are listening to the world?

Digging Deeper

1. Read Colossians 1-2:15. What truths about Christ, and our identity in relation to him have stood out to you? How do those truths impact how we live?
2. How do people pass judgment on things you do? How does the world put pressure on you to do things different?
3. Consider the ongoing commands Paul gives the church in Col. 2:6-7.

- a. Walk in Christ... Rooted in him... Built up in him... Established in the faith... Abounding in thanksgiving...
 - b. If we are living in obedience to that way of life, how does it protect us from the world's poisonous judgment?
4. On the flip side, how do people pass judgment on things you don't do? How are you pressured into things for fear of judgment?
5. What does it feel like when your mind really is set on things above?
 - a. How is your life different when your heart and mind are in the right place?
 - b. How does it affect your decisions?
6. How can you recognize poison in your life or in the lives of your brothers and sisters in Christ? How can we help each other overcome them?

Live It Out

Pray: Pray for a mind set on things above. We live in a world clawing for our attention. Pray for clarity and focus on Christ and a life that reflects that.

Confess: What “things below” are getting your attention? Where is your focus pulled away from Christ and how does that change your view of yourself and those around you?

Act: What can you do this week to actively refocus your attention on Christ? What would it take to get back to minds set on things above and on Christ?