

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: Identity in Christ, Part 1

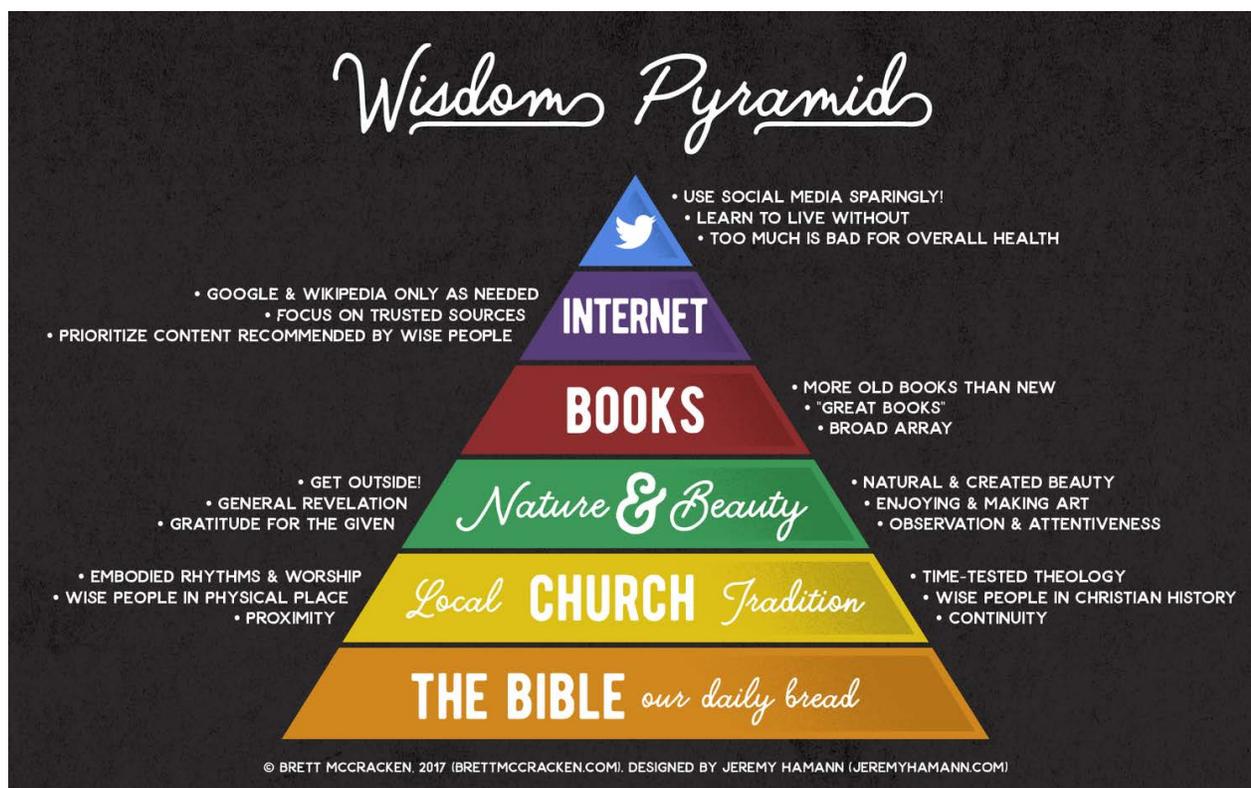
PASSAGE: Colossians 2:8-15

DATE: July 19, 2020

I. The Warning: Think about your thinking (v. 8) Five Descriptors of Philosophy to Be on Guard Against:

- A. Powerful
- B. Empty deceit
- C. According to human tradition
- D. According to the elemental spirits of this world
- E. Not according to Christ

- “Every time we look for knowledge about ourselves from something other than God, we perpetuate the cycle of self-destruction. As we continue to live divorced from our true identity in God, we lose a sense of who we are; and as we lose a sense of who we are, we continue to live divorced from our true identity. And we end up struggling, grasping, flailing to find something—anything—that will give us a stable sense of self.”- Hannah Anderson, Made for More



II. The Solution: Embrace your identity in Christ (v. 9-15)

- "...to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." – Colossians 2:2-3
- "Our capacity to contain the fullness of God is an interesting thought. There are no limits to possible capacity of the presence of God. We can always open to hold more and more of God's fullness. The walls of our lives can always stretch further; the roof of our lives can always rise higher; the floor of our lives can always hold more. The more we receive His fullness, the more we can receive." – Kent Hughes
- "Before we can be filled with the Spirit, the desire to be filled must be all-consuming. It must be for the time the biggest thing in the life, so acute, so intrusive as to crowd out everything else. The degree of fullness in any life accords perfectly with the intensity of true desire. We have as much of God as we actually want." ~ A.W. Tozer

Benediction:

"...that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God." – Ephesians 3:16-19

Discussion / Reflection Questions:

1. When you think about the five descriptors of philosophy and ways of thinking that Paul wants us to be on guard against, which of the five is most dangerous and why?
2. What is a common philosophy, or way of thinking, or "ism" today that's not according to Christ that tries to take you captive?
3. What are practical and specific ways you experience the fullness of Christ in your life? What aspects of Christ do you want to be more filled up with?