



UNSEEN REALM

April 21, 2024

Unseen Realm: Week 3 – The Triumph of Christ – Colossians 2:9-15

Big Idea: Jesus has cancelled your sin debt and disarmed the forces and authorities opposed to your flourishing and life.

Overview: We have determined that the evil forces opposed to God, life, and the flourishing of humanity. Satan, demons do exist and are very much at work in the events of the world. However, there is good news. First, that we have resources for the struggle we are in through the armor of God. But even more, Christ has defeated these entities for all time through the death of Jesus Christ. We are in a war that has been won, but the battle continues today.

Life Group Objectives:

Remember why you exist as a group! Life Groups are to:

1. Reflect on this past week's message and passage or dig into the series you are going through as a group. We desire for you to have the Bible play a key role in your time together.
2. Welcome new people into your group who are searching and desperate for community! We are receiving weekly requests from people who desire to join groups. Are you able to welcome new people into your group as you were once welcomed?
3. Pray together and provide encouragement for other group members. How can you build one another up this week?
4. Reflect on how your group, or as individuals, can play your part to be on mission in your neighborhood, church, or city.

Conversation starters:

- How has this series been for you? There have been some heavy and dense topics covered.
- Where do you see the triumph of Jesus Christ in your life, in our church, and in the world currently? Why may it be so hard to notice?
- Have you ever experienced the unseen realm before? Sensed, seen, or experienced angels or oppression? What was that like?

Learning from God's Word: Bible Study Discussion

Read Scripture: Colossians 2:9-15

Questions for Discussion:

1. **Sin is cancelled vs. 13-14**
 - If God has made us "alive", what does this mean for you? Are you experiencing the life of Jesus?
 - What does it mean that Jesus as "canceled the charge" of your sin?
 - Satan is described as the accuser. If Jesus has canceled the power and penalty of sin, this means that you can live free of accusation! Are you?
 - Jesus is the only one who can take care of your sin. What happens when we try to by trying to forget it, dilute it, or defend it?
2. **Satan is disarmed vs. 15**
 - How does the cross, an instrument of scorn and shame, become the tool in which Satan is disarmed? (Leader hint: think resurrection!)
 - If Satan is disarmed, and sin is cancelled, why does life seem so difficult still? (Leader hint: see page two for the already/not yet tension)
 - How do we appropriate the victory of Jesus in our lives? How do we make it real, felt, and experienced daily? (Leader hint: think practices, community, prayer, silence).

- What is a practice you can incorporate into your life this week to nurture closeness and intimacy with Jesus?

Listening to God:

- How has God been present in our discussion so far? What themes have emerged?

Prayer Prompts and Application:

- Be sensitive to the group as this can be a heavy discussion. Give people space to process their thoughts and emotions. Create safety and openness to share and pray. Remember, you are not there to fix all the difficulties or places of dissonance, but simply to point them to Jesus!
- Invite members of the group to share prayer requests. Gently nudge people to go a few levels deeper by being specific and vulnerable.
- Pray for clarity as each person thinks about the sphere of influence they have been sent into. Where is God asking you to engage in, being sanctified and sent to do so?

If you are sensing that people need some pastoral care after this series, please reach out to Pastor Dave Hearn. He is more than willing to walk, pray, and listen to people as they process.

For Further Study:

Books:

- *Christus Victor* by Gustaf Aulen
- *Deliverance* by Jon Thompson
- *Soul Care* by Rob Reimer

