

Day 9 Colossians 2:5

Last summer I was fortunate enough to do a few day hikes in Rocky Mountain National Park. I went with my husband who has a bit more preparedness skills than I. I may have had a cough drop in my pocket. There's some preparedness skills for you!

But my husband was carrying the burden. He was shouldering the backpack with water, the snacks, bear spray, etc. It was great for me, because the only thing I had to do was stay on the trail.

If we remember this letter was written to the Colossians because they were starting to pull outside traditions and opinions into their faith. They were taking the burden of salvation and putting it on their backs. In doing that they were not only depending on their own human thinking, but they were also getting off the path of the gospel.

And if we're honest we all have tendencies to put the burden of salvation back on ourselves. We hold onto traditions, and beliefs, and create battles with cultures that don't really belong to us. We work hard to overcomplicate an easy concept.

So, let's uncomplicate our faith.

We were not created to acquire enough righteousness to stand before a Holy God. Even at the beginning Adam and Eve were under the righteousness of God, not equal to it. The burden for their every need was on God Himself.

Yet the temptation, for them, and us, is that they could be like God. They were told the knowledge of good, and evil would make them free to create enough righteousness to be equal with God. It was a big lie.

Unfortunately, it made them carry a burden they were not designed to carry as we were not created to judge good and evil. Adam and Eve were left with a task they were not up for. They went from being under God's holiness to having to compete with it. We were not designed for that, so it separated them from God's provision.

But God wasn't finished and in Christ that burden has been lifted from us and we are back under the holiness of God through Christ our Lord. And that is the gospel, the good news!

And the conundrum is that we still strive to create our own brand of righteousness. But the real danger in that for the Colossians (and us) is that we will put that burden on others. If we pick up our own righteousness it will have an effect on relaying the gospel to others. And that will affect how we are able to spread the good news.

Paul called it disciplined firm faith. He talked about this in the first chapter as well. It is obviously important that we stay on the trail that has already been cut out for us and that we follow the provision of Christ for salvation.

As we do, we will experience the love of God more and that love will be expressed in every part of our lives. It will help us stay disciplined to live worthy of the love and the grace we have been given. Following Christ on the trail set for us is the most beautiful journey we can take. And as we experience its beauty others will want to experience it as well.

So, get your cough drop and let's hit the trail together! :)