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## Group Guide

# Protect Yourself

*March 16, 2025*

### Main Passage:

### Theological Theme

To protect ourselves from false teaching, we need to understand the truth of the gospel and what Jesus has done for us. When we know the truth, we can more easily spot the lie.

### Introduction

- ❓ How might misinformation still be a problem in the church today?
- ❓ Why is this such a danger?

### 1. Warning (Colossians 2:4-8)

The header in the *CSB Study Bible* for this section of text is “Christ versus the Colossian Heresy.” This header wasn’t a part of Paul’s original letter—it was added later as a helpful study tool—but it is the perfect summary for our text today. Paul was dealing with this issue in the Colossian church: countering the heretical teachings the congregation heard with the truth of the gospel of Christ.

- ❓ Paul mentioned being deceived by “arguments that sound reasonable” (v. 4). Do you think that is still a problem for us today? Why or why not?
- ❓ What does it mean to be taken captive by deceit and false arguments (v. 8)?
- ❓ Application: What intentional steps can we take to become more rooted and established in our faith, like Paul mentioned in verse 7? What does this look like in daily life?

### 2. Truth (Colossians 2:9-15)

Paul continued to fight the battle of Christ versus the Colossian Heresy. Paul’s approach to evangelism and ministry is an example for us. Do you notice his strategy? Paul knew the best defense in the face of lies was the truth, and he explained this in a way that combatted the false teaching they had heard. There’s no name calling or mudslinging, just truth.

- ❓ Paul made a couple of points to combat the Colossian heresy in this passage. What do you notice and how did these points serve to reinforce the truth of the gospel?
- ❓ What did Paul say about salvation?
- ❓ Application: What does Paul's approach teach us about sharing the gospel and making disciples? How can we share similarly in our lives?

### 3. Transformation (Colossians 2:16-23)

When we become believers, fully rooted in and walking with Jesus, it should transform us and affect the way we live. Paul advocated for this transformation in the Colossian congregation. They knew the truth, and this was to affect the way they reacted to the false teachings they heard.

- ❓ What specific ideas did Paul warn the Colossians against?
- ❓ What does it mean to die with Christ but still live as if we belong to the world (v. 20)?
- ❓ Application: Where do you see opportunity for legalism in the church today? Are there any ways you struggle with this personally? Explain.

### Conclusion

- ❓ How can we tell sound teaching from false teaching? What are some ways we prepare for this?
- ❓ How can encourage one another to walk with Jesus in our everyday lives (v. 6)?
- ❓ Revisit the way Paul described the gospel in verses 13-14. What language can we pull from this passage to share the gospel with another person today?