

Colossians Complement #12

Pragmatism: insufficient motivation for spirituality

Pragmatism: I choose to do what works well and gets good results

A. An approach to spirituality based on Pragmatism: **Spirituality is one thing I do.**

Thought process of pragmatism:

- 1) The pragmatist sees potential _____ in doing what God says.
- 2) The pragmatist will _____ doing what God says because *I see how it helps me.*

Two problems with pragmatism:

- 1) I cannot _____ clearly.
 - Isaiah 55:8-11
 - Proverbs 14:12
- 2) _____ will dictate my priorities.
 - Luke 8:14
 - 2 Timothy 4:10
 - Hebrews 12:1

B. An approach to spirituality based on Identity: **I am a spiritual being with a connection to God.**

Thought process of identity-based spirituality in Colossians:

- 1) Jesus Christ is worthy of being my _____ priority always.
 - Who is He? (Col. 1:15-20)
 - What has He done for me? (Col. 1:21-22, Gal. 2:20)
- 2) I am _____ to Jesus Christ.
 - What is my identity? (Col. 2:10-15)
- 3) Therefore, I'll _____ Jesus Christ in the way He has taught me, no matter the circumstances.
 - Col. 3:1-4 – Decide to pursue Jesus Christ because He pursued me.
 - Col. 3:5-4:6 – How He has taught me to pursue Him.

Discussion Questions

1. Which verse stood out to you tonight? Why?
2. What sort of circumstances might tempt you to prioritize the cares of this life over pursuing Jesus Christ?
3. How can other believers help keep your focus on Jesus Christ?