

Study Notes --

What are some of the positive things you remember from being part of Grace Fellowship in 2017?

What are your hopes and dreams for our church family in this new year?

Thinking back to Sunday's message, what spoke to you, inspired you, encouraged you, challenged you, or confused you?

If you were asked what the greatest danger to the Christian faith in America, what would your answer be? Please explain.

What kind of challenges can be created when there is a distortion of the gospel truth inside a local church?

What must a local church do to avoid such twisting or dilution of the truth?

What are some of the sneaky false doctrines that you have heard recently?

False truths often seek to answer some mystery or to offer us a means to escape the problems of life. Why do you believe people do not see Jesus and the gospel as enough?

Read **Galatians 2:20**.

How can having a correct view of our identity in Jesus enable us to overcome temptations in life?

Read **Romans 6:5-14**.

Focus on verse 13. How does this verse give us insight in our struggle against temptation?

How is this approach to dealing with temptations differ from what you may have tried in the past? Is it just a matter of trying harder?

GRACE NOTES

Message: Living Above

Scripture: Colossians 2:16-3:4

Date: Sunday, January 7, 2018

¹⁶Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. ¹⁷These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. ¹⁸Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, ¹⁹and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.

²⁰If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations— ²¹“Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch” ²²(referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to human precepts and teachings? ²³These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.

³If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

