

Title: Schools Out – Colossians 2 1-10

Read:

¹ I want you to realize that I continue to work as hard as I know how for you, and also for the Christians over at Laodicea. Not many of you have met me face-to-face, but that doesn't make any difference. Know that I'm on your side, right alongside you. You're not in this alone. ²⁻⁴ I want you woven into a tapestry of love, in touch with everything there is to know of God. Then you will have minds confident and at rest, focused on Christ, God's great mystery. All the richest treasures of wisdom and knowledge are embedded in that mystery and nowhere else. And we've been shown the mystery! I'm telling you this because I don't want anyone leading you off on some wild-goose chase, after other so-called mysteries, or "the Secret." ⁵ I'm a long way off, true, and you may never lay eyes on me, but believe me, I'm on your side, right beside you. I am delighted to hear of the careful and orderly ways you conduct your affairs, and impressed with the solid substance of your faith in Christ. ⁶⁻⁷ My counsel for you is simple and straightforward: Just go ahead with what you've been given. You received Christ Jesus, the Master; now live him. You're deeply rooted in him. You're well constructed upon him. You know your way around the faith. Now do what you've been taught. School's out; quit studying the subject and start living it! And let your living spill over into thanksgiving. ⁸⁻
¹⁰ Watch out for people who try to dazzle you with big words and intellectual double-talk. They want to drag you off into endless arguments that never amount to anything. They spread their ideas through the empty traditions of human beings and the empty superstitions of spirit beings. But that's not the way of Christ. Everything of God gets expressed in him, so you can see and hear him clearly. You don't need a telescope, a microscope, or a horoscope to realize the fullness of Christ, and the emptiness of the universe without him. When you come to him, that fullness comes together for you, too. His power extends over everything.

Think:

So many adults need to hear Paul's words from today's passage. I'm not being mean because I need to hear them as well, and so do you. I love the way that this translation tells us Schools Out now's the time for living what you have been taught. You study at school or college, but for what? You study so that you can use that knowledge in your future life. There is no point in studying Law at college, if you intend on becoming a plumber, you will never use the knowledge you gained at college. What's the point of practicing your guitar for hours on end if you never intend on playing it once you have learnt the basics. Goes without saying really doesn't it, but many adults do take that attitude towards Jesus. They study Jesus, go to every seminar about him, read hundreds of books on the way he lived his life. And then what do they do? They walk past someone on the street that needs help. They gossip about people at work. They completely miss the point; they don't use the knowledge they have. So we can sit here all pompous like and say "yer that's right adults are like that." Except for one thing, often we are like that too, aren't we? So let's make a decision today to not only learn what Jesus wants us to do, but to actually do it in our daily lives at school and college. Let's continue to study God's word, but let's start taking more action to make a difference in others lives using the knowledge that we have been given from our God.

Pray:

Lord School is out; please help me use the facts in your Bible to make a difference in mine and others lives. Amen.

Action:

If you really believe what we have said today then make a commitment. Email us at podcast@aftershock.org.uk or go aftershock.org.uk and make a declaration in the comments of this dev. Whatever you do let someone know today the decisions you have made. Bye.