

Series "Jesus Is First"
"Don't Be Deceived"
Colossians 2:8-10
Part-7

We come now to the very purpose of why the apostle had written to these believers. He has alluded to error before.

Colossians 2:4 – "I say this in order that no one may delude you"

Colossians 2:8 – "See to it that no one takes you captive" – "Captive" is a stronger word than "Delude."

Colossians 2 – DANGER – CHRIST'S PREMINENCE DEFENDED: Warning The Believers, Finding Sufficiency In Jesus Christ!

Thought Of Our Passage: "The Believer Who Wanders From Christ For A Deeper Life Has Wandered From The Source Of Life."

1. Verse 8 – Deficiency Of Man

2. Verses 9-10 – Sufficiency Of Christ

1. Verse 8 – Deficiency Of Man:

Colossians 2:8 – "See to it" – The Context: Colossians 2:1-7 – Paul revealed the Great Struggle.

"See to it" – or "beware." Be on the look out, be constantly looking out! For What? Matthew 7:15

"that no one takes you captive" – This is why we need to be careful. Satan works through people.

Acts 20:28-31

"takes you captive" – "spoil" (Only here in the NT), This means "to kidnap and carry off, as prisoners led away by victorious armies, carry away booty, to lead astray."

The idea is not to rob the person but want to kidnap the person, Galatians 5:1.

"that no one takes you captive" – "Beware lest any man carry you off as a captive" (literal translation).

“through philosophy” – This word is made up of 2 Greek words, “phileo” – “to love”; “Sophia” – “wisdom”; so “to love wisdom.” Nothing wrong with loving wisdom, but when it is this type of intellectual vain deceit, it is wrong! “When philosophy becomes an end in itself!”

There are two sources for wisdom:

1. **Human Speculation** – Francis Schaeffer said, “Man cannot begin with himself and arrive at ultimate reality.”

Romans 1:21-22

2. **Divine Revelation** – That God reveals through His Word the truth about Himself and who man really is! Psalm 14:1

Psalm 119:1-4

“and empty deception,” – It is hollow, it has no substance; Vain speculation.

Stoic – They would not show emotion, grit teeth and bear it. The object was to go through any hardship, even death of a loved one and say I don’t care!

Epicurean – Have a good time, live for pleasure, do what feels good.

4 Characteristics of this dangerous philosophy:

1. **It was Deceptive** – “deception,” – “deceit, fraud or trick” It sounded really great, but it was fake.

It is not that these people were bad, they had good morals, were good citizens, but the point was that they were leading the Colossians astray with deceptive teaching.

2. **It was Human Tradition** – “according to the tradition of men,” – The source is from man. Human circles handed down from generation to generation.

The word “tradition” means “that which is handed down.”

2 Thessalonians 2:15

The important thing about any teaching is its origin: Did it come from God or from man?

Mark 7:7-9

3. It was Religious Practices – “according to the elementary principles of the world,” – “to lay out in a row or order.” They A-B-C this stuff.

“elementary principles” – It could be translated “elemental spirits,” demonic, used for order of the stars, those under the influence of the stars. Colossians 2:18

Galatians 1:8-9

4. Not According To Christ – “rather than according to Christ.” – Jesus Christ was not the source nor the content! Christianity is Christ.

“Education without salvation is a blind alley.”

Education implies the accumulation of knowledge. Christianity insists that knowledge is not enough.

2. Verses 9-10 – Sufficiency Of Christ:

Colossians 2:9 – “For” – gives the reason for the warning.

This passage in a few words declares that Jesus Christ is Fully God! That in no sense is Jesus inferior to God. “For in Him all the fulness of Deity dwells in bodily form,”

“in Him” – This is Jesus Christ.

“dwells” – It means to “to settle down at be at home.” Present tense Greek says that He has always been and always will be; Present and permanent dwelling.

“fulness” – totality of divine power and attributes, Godhead dwelt. Colossians 1:19

“deity” – Godhead, the very essence of God, Divine nature.

“in bodily form,” – When Jesus was on earth, He was totally God.

So we put it together and we get “When Jesus came to earth, He preexisted and was the eternal God, so He took on a human body. He was fully God and was also fully man.”

The gulf between heaven and earth was bridged in the incarnation of Jesus Christ. He is declared to be "Emmanuel, God with us," Matthew 1:23.

Once again, Paul refuted the Gnostic doctrine that matter was evil and that Jesus did not have a human body.

Colossians 2:10

The word "complete," It was a nautical term that speaks of "a ship that is fully loaded, prepared to go to sea!"

Warren Wiersbe – "When a person is born again into the family of God, he is born complete in Christ. His spiritual growth is not by addition, but by nutrition. He grows from the inside out. Nothing needs to be added to Christ because He already is the very fullness of God. As the believer draws on Christ's fullness, he is "filled unto all the fullness of God," Ephesians 3:19.

"complete," – The word means "Our emptiness is filled with Christ's deity," same as Col. 2:9, same as the word "filled."

His fullness fills my emptiness. We are all empty apart from Jesus.

"and He is the head over all rule and authority;" – He is the fullness, He is over all.

Application: There are spiritual perils that the Christian faces. The fundamental test of any religious teaching is the following:

1. Where Does The Teaching Place Jesus Christ – His Person And His Work?"
2. Does The Teaching Rob Jesus Of His Fullness?
3. Does The Teaching Deny Either Jesus' Deity Or Jesus' Humanity?
4. Does The Teaching Assert That The Believer Must Have Some "New Experience" To Supplement His Experience With Christ? If So, That Teaching Is Wrong And Dangerous.