

Christ and Philosophies
Colossians 2:6-10
February 12, 2012

Introduction

Colossians 2:6-10 *So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in Him,⁷ rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.⁸ See to it [Beware] that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.⁹ For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity [Godhead] lives in bodily form,¹⁰ and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority.*

I. Living In Christ (6-7)

- Cleave to Christ

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord

- Receive Christ the person, not just His teachings and truth
- Marriage analogy

Genesis 2:24 (KJV) *Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.*

Note: Cleave means to join completely (like glue) and once cleaved, not to be separated. Two people become one flesh. It is the union of a man and woman instituted by God. Paul says that within the cleaving of man and woman is the mystery of Christ and the church. It is the union of Christ and the church. I love it when Moses says that a man shall leave his father and mother and be cleaved to his wife. This is no accident since the marriage between husband and wife is mere shadows of the true relationship between Christ and the church. If we so desire Christ, we leave behind the world and self and be joined to Christ.

- Beginning of the relationship with Christ

- How we cleave to Christ

Christ Jesus as Lord

- Being identified as part of His kingdom
- Jesus Christ is Master, King, Sovereign.

- Commitment to Christ

continue to live your lives in Him

- Continue = walk, way of life. (present action that does not stop)

- How do we show this commitment?

Note: The verbs in Greek are all in participle form, not imperative. What this means is that these are not commands but descriptors of a person in Christ.

- We show growth

rooted and built up in Him

- We continue to believe in the truth

strengthened in the faith as you were taught

- Overflowing thanksgiving

overflowing with thankfulness

Transition: If you are a Christian, then beware of philosophies that are vain and false.

II. Philosophies Apart from Christ (8)

- Beware (watch out, see to it)

Note: Present tense with continuous, nonstop action.

Matthew 7:15 Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.

Matthew 16:6 "Be careful," Jesus said to them. "Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees."

Acts 20:28-31 Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which He bought with His own blood. ²⁹I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. ³⁰Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. ³¹So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.

2 Peter 3:17 Therefore, dear friends, since you already know this, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position.

- Beware of what?
 - Captive—cheat, kidnap, plunder, rape (The Greek word *sulagōgeō* means all these)
- How can we be kidnapped, taken captive?
 - Empty, deceitful promises or philosophies
 - **Example:** relativism, prosperity teaching (health and wealth)
- Where do these false philosophies come from?
 - Human traditions

Mark 7:5 Then the Pharisees and scribes asked Him, "Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashed hands?"

1 Peter 1:18 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers,

Example: All the world religions have salvation by works...all of them passed down by human traditions

- Elemental spiritual forces of the world

1 Corinthians 10:19-21 *What am I saying then? That an idol is anything, or what is offered to idols is anything? ²⁰Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons. ²¹You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons.*

1 Timothy 4:1 *Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,*

Transition: We do not need false philosophy—all we need is Christ alone.

III. Fullness in Christ (9-10)

- Fullness of Godhead in Christ bodily
 - Christ Jesus is God
 - All that makes God as God is in Jesus

Note: When talking to others about the Deity of Jesus Christ, this verse is the definitive and bedrock verse upon which all false teachings shatter.

- Christ Jesus is Sovereign
 - If you follow empty philosophies, then you choose less than Christ
 - You then be choosing something infinitely lesser over the infinite Great
- Fullness of Christ in us

Note: This is Paul's summation—Jesus Christ is the fullness of God and if we are in Christ Jesus, then we are full in Him. This is better illustrated by comparing before and after salvation.

- Apart from Christ
 - Spiritually dead
 - Empty
 - Apart from God
 - Always looking for something more
- In Christ
 - Life of God in us (fullness of Christ)
 - Spiritually complete (fullness of Christ)
 - Fellowship with God (fullness of Christ)
 - He is all that I need (fullness of Christ)
 - Jesus is the fullness of God and we are the fullness in Him