

BELIEVER, BEWARE!

Colossians 2:9-23

1

Philosophies And Traditions Of Men

Colossians 2:8-10

The Danger

- They “cheat” (NKJV); it “takes you captive” (NASV).
 - They can even cheat you of your salvation!
 - They render our worship and service to God “vain.” cf. Matthew 15:9
 - They do this through “empty deceit.”
 - It is not evident (otherwise, none would accept it).

2

Philosophies And Traditions Of Men

Colossians 2:8-10

Nothing New

- The “philosophies” of:
 - Atheism. Evolution. Humanism.
- The “traditions of men,” found rampant in:
 - Protestant denominations.
 - Catholicism (both “Roman” and “Orthodox”).
 - Various cults.
- NOT After Jesus Christ!

3

Philosophies And Traditions Of Men

Colossians 2:8-10

Remember:

- In “Jesus Christ” are found **ALL** the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Colossians 2:3
- In “Jesus Christ” is found the **FULLNESS** of the Godhead bodily. Colossians 2:9
- In “Jesus Christ” we are **COMPLETE**. Colossians 2:10; cf. 2 Peter 1:2-3

4

Problem With Judaism Colossians 2:11-17

Circumcision. cf. Acts 15:1-5; 6-27

- Addressed in Romans, Galatians, Ephesians, and Colossians.
- Through baptism into Christ, we experience the “true circumcision.” Colossians 2:11-13
- Jesus has taken the Old Law out of the way. Colossians 2:14-15 (cf. Ephesians 2:14-16)
- Therefore, let no one judge (condemn) us in matters of the Old Law. Colossians 2:16-17

5

Today, Many Still Try To Bind The Old Law Upon Christians.

- Sabbaths keeping and food regulations. Exodus 20:8
- Separate priesthood. Leviticus 21:16-23
- Instrumental music. Psalms 150
- Tithing.
 - Abraham: Hebrews 7:2 with Genesis 14:18-20
 - Jacob: Genesis 28:22
 - The law that commanded giving one-tenth of their annual increase to support the central place of worship. Deuteronomy 12:2-7; 14:22; Leviticus 27:30
 - In addition to the tenth (tithe) they could give “vowed offerings and freewill offerings” (Deuteronomy 12:2-7).
- Incense. Leviticus 10:1-2

6

Today, Many Still Try To Bind The Old Law Upon Christians.

As Those In Christ:

- Have died to the Law and Jewish ceremonialism. Romans 7:1-6
- Have been set free, and need to beware of becoming *"entangled again with a yoke of bondage"* Galatians 5:1
- If we seek justification by our observance of things found in the Old Law, we are *"fallen from grace!"* Galatians 5:2-4
- "Believer, Beware!" when people try to impose things upon you which are based upon the Law of Moses. Remember, *"you are complete in HIM."*

7

The Worship Of Angels. Colossians 2:18-19

Why Would People Worship Angels?

- Perhaps because they felt angels were needed as "intercessors."
- Perhaps with "a sense of humility," they felt they could NOT go to God directly.

8

The Worship Of Angels. Colossians 2:18-19

- Result of *"false humility"* and based upon one's *"vain imagination."* Colossians 2:18 (cf. Hebrews 4:14-16)
- It actually diverts one away from Christ, the rightful *"Head of the body."* Colossians 2:19
- Angels refused worship. Revelation 22:8-9
- Apostle Peter refused worship. Acts 10:25-26

9

Today, Some Religions Have Developed A Counterpart To The Worship Of Angels.

- Catholicism with its veneration of Mary and the *"saints"*
 - The reasoning is similar: *"humility"* (*"We need them to intercede for us"*)
- The result is still the same: *"not holding fast to the Head,"* venerating other beings rather than Christ!

10

Asceticism. Colossians 2:20-23

- Definition: "the practice of strict self-denial as a measure of personal and especially spiritual discipline; the condition, practice, or mode of life of an ascetic; rigorous abstention from self-indulgence." (Webster)

Asceticism Has Often Been Offered As A Key To "Self-control."

- Examples:
 - Fasting and other forms of abstinence.
 - Beating one's self with whips.

11

Asceticism. Colossians 2:20-23

Asceticism Is Of No Real Value Against The "Indulgence Of The Flesh"

- Transformation comes through *"renewing the MIND,"* not afflicting the BODY. Romans 12:1-2; cf. Romans 8:5, 12-13
- The *"fruit of the Spirit"* includes self-control. Galatians 5:22-23; cf. 2 Peter 1:5ff

12

**Asceticism.
Colossians 2:20-23**

We Must Beware Of The False Claims Of Asceticism!

- Fasting may have a place in the lives of Christians. cf. Acts 13:2-3; 14:23; 1 Corinthians 7:5; 2 Corinthians 11:27
- But not for the purpose of developing self-control!
- We pray, that God might hear our prayer. cf. Ezra 8:21; Matthew 6:17-18

13

Conclusion:

As we grow in Christ, attempting to mature spiritually, beware of any doctrine or teaching of man that suggests we need more than Jesus Christ!

- Christ is "THE" way (not "A" way). John 14:6
 - By holding fast to Him we find the ability to "*crucify the flesh with its passions and desires.*" Galatians 5:24
- We are COMPLETE in Him! cf. Galatians 2:20
- Are you IN Him? cf. Galatians 3:26-27

14