

MAR. 11, 2018

Study Page: Col. 2:8-10

Beware

Reading Colossians 2:8-10

When an apostle of Christ says, “see to it,” or “Beware,” we should make certain we understand the thrust of the warning. This isn’t like some figurative phrase tucked away in Ezekiel or Revelation (that is part of a larger picture and doesn’t lend itself to specific interpretation). This is an apostle of Christ warning Christians, then and today: **Beware. See to this.**

Don’t let anyone *take you captive*.

As a Christian, you are a servant of God, a follower of Christ, joined with others in your spiritual family – to glorify God and preach the lost and serve your family. You are in submission to divine authority in all these relationships and aspects of life.

You are not in submission to anyone who comes along with some new twist of doctrine, popular philosophy or eye-catching innovation. Beware. There are charming false teachers. There are spiritual “suicide bombers” who want to “explode” local churches. Religious terrorist who do not use literal guns but error disguised. They are loaded with



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false teaching, temptation and selfish agendas. **Beware.**

Philosophy simple means, a system of thought. The modern corresponding term could be, “world view.” There were systems of thought (like Gnosticism) in the first century, which attempted to combine pagan assertions with the gospel.

Empty Deceit points to that which is futile, vain, not according to Christ.

Human tradition is about what men come up with and pass on, that is contrary to the truth of Christ.

The elemental spirits of the world may have reference to ancient, crude rules and regulations men came up with, which are based in the world, rather than what comes from the Creator of the world.

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Here's a simple rule we can apply. **If something we hear or see or read is "not according to Christ,"**

Christ and His teaching protects us. And, is **perfectly sufficient!** "For in Him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in Him, who is the head of all rule and authority."

These two verses punctuate one of the primary themes of Colossians. In Christ, we have all we need to get out of sin, into fellowship with God, to live a righteous life and go to heaven. So, if something is "not according to Christ," reject it.

It deserves to be rejected, no matter who the deliverer is. For instance, a man may be charming, likeable, friendly and have a professional countenance – but be corrupt in what he is teaching.

To know if something is "not according to Christ," you'll have to learn who Christ is, what He said, what His apostles revealed. That means, get your head into the New Testament and read it over and over. Go to Bible classes where God's Word is taught. Never let repetition bore you. Knowing the truth of Christ is your defense against those who could take you captive.