

COLOSSIANS 2b COMPLETE IN HIM

Colossians 2:8 Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

- **CEV** - Don't let anyone fool you by using senseless arguments. These arguments may sound wise, but they are only human teachings. They come from the powers of this world and not from Christ.
- Be wary of any "Self Help" aids that are not based in the bible. Some of them sound very wise and intellectual, but are traps laid out for us to put the Word of God on the back burner. Listen to **Warren Wiersbe**:
- "How is it possible for false teachers to capture people? The answer is simple: These "captives" are ignorant of the truths of the Word of God. They become fascinated by the philosophy and empty delusion of the false teachers. (This is not to say that *all* philosophy is wrong, because there is a Christian philosophy of life. The word simply means "to love wisdom.") When a person does not know the doctrines of the Christian faith, he can easily be captured by false religions."
- What religion in Paul's day was full of traditions that were made equal in importance to God's word?
 - Some of us came from denominations full of traditions that we were told to follow, or else! **OR ELSE WHAT?** Would we lose our salvation? That's cultish! Beware of religions that force certain clothing and behaviors on you! Eat this; Don't eat that; Wear this; Go around in robes; Pray the same prayer every time; Stand in public places offering nothing; Dress in white...
 - Paul warns the Colossians to make Christ more important than man-made rules. **WHY?**

9 For in Him dwells all the **fullness of the Godhead bodily**;

- Can it be any clearer? Jesus is the “fulness of the Godhead bodily;”
- **NLT** - For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body.
- **CEV** - God lives fully in Christ.
- **That is SUCH good news...** AND Wait, THERE'S MORE....

10 and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power. **(IE, Angelic, AND demonic beings)**

- GILL - Or "filled up", or "filled full" in Him.
- The Philosophy of being “Good” in order to obtain salvation is EMPTY and useless. Obeying all of the man-made rules, rituals and religious looking nonsense will not get you one inch closer to God.
- God wants us to get close to His Son. Obey His Son. Worship His Son. Become 100% dependent on His Son! *Not religious rituals.*
- I think God wants us to do bold things knowing that His Son has our back! ***Listen to this...***

11 In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ,

- **NLT** - When you came to Christ, you were “circumcised,” but not by a physical procedure. Christ performed a spiritual circumcision—the cutting away of your sinful nature.

AND THEN...

12 buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

- **ROMANS 6:4** - Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, **even so we also should walk in newness of life.**

SO... THE PART OF YOU THAT WAS CONDEMNED IS DEAD

13 And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, **(IE, the old man)** He has made alive together with Him,

having forgiven you all trespasses, (*How many?*) (**HOW MANY?**) 14 having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

I love Chuck Smith's illustration – Imagine that he had in desperation robbed a 7/11; got arrested; convicted; and then a judge wrote out his order for Chuck to go to prison for 3 years... But... On the bus ride to prison, the bus rolled off of the highway and Chuck was killed. Would he still have to go to prison?

- Would they embalm his body and deliver it to San Quentin?
 - Would he have to lie in wait for three years? NO!

Because he died... He was no longer under the handwriting of the Judge's sentence. And when our old man died... THE SENTENCE OF HELL DIED WITH HIM!

You are a free Saint!

You may now feel free to move about the cabin!

My chains are gone, I've been set free! Why?

JESUS...

15 Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

- **NLT** - In this way, He disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by His victory over them on the cross.
- All wedding ceremonies end with the same act. What is the last thing a Pastor asks the couple to do?
 - That publicly tells all other suitors, what?
 - This one is mine! Hands off! Back off! Pound sand!
 - Jesus made this spiritual claim ABOUT YOU that day that He died on the cross. "IT IS FINISHED" He shouted...
 - **This one is mine! Hands off you devils! Back off! Pound sand! Get away!**
 - **We're friends... Brother & Sister... Family!**

SO...

LET NO ONE DISQUALIFY YOU

16 So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, 17 which are a shadow of things to come, **(They were all lessons about Jesus)** but the substance is of Christ.

- We have friends who STILL insist on worshipping on Saturday – Some condemning us who worship on The Lord's Day, and some not... They just feel more holy than us... But what does the Apostle Paul write here? Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit? **DO NOT GET CHEATED...**
 - **BTW, how many days a week do WE worship Jesus?**

18 Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in **false humility** and worship of angels, **(or Mary, or saints)** intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly **(religious)** mind, 19 and not holding fast to the Head, **JESUS** from whom all the **(spiritual)** body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase *that is* from God.

- Beloved, when we get to heaven and stand before the Lord... I want us all to be able to say that "We worshipped JESUS before all and anything else!"
 - No Pastor praise came before Jesus!
 - No building became our focus.
 - No politician became our savior.
 - No hobby became an idol!
 - No passion took the place of Jesus!
 - Not even a human relationship separated us from serving and worshipping JESUS!
 - Our kid's soccer team was second... Our schedule was in submission to Him... Our finances were subject to Him... My flesh and worldly impulses were surrendered to Jesus!
 - We were **Jesus People** in word and in deeds 100%.

20 Therefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as *though* living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations— 21 "Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle," 22 which all concern things which perish with the using—according to the commandments and doctrines of men?

- **Smith** – “A dead man can do nothing to help himself, BUT... In Christ all has been done which is necessary!”
- **PLEASE** don't be tempted to ever GO BACK to the religious rituals that are worthless...
 - I have friends who have done this because it feels good to accomplish all of the rules, rituals, and physical things – kneeling, repeating religious sounding words... submitting to a Holy man who tells you that you are good to go with God because you are doing the right things...
 - I WILL NOT TELL YOU THAT!
 - I will point you to Jesus! Pray to Jesus! Depend on Jesus!
 - DO NOT DEPEND ON YOUR actions... WHY? Listen...

23 These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, *false* humility, and neglect of the body, *but are* of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.

WHO HAS VALUE?

WHO HAS DIED FOR US?

WHO IS THE WAY? THE LIFE? THE DOOR?

Who is waiting to hear from you right now?

Please, call out to Him right now!