

There's a Danger Out There: Beware of Worldly Philosophies Colossians 2:8-10

(NKJ) 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. ⁹ For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; ¹⁰ and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

(GNT) ⁸ βλέπετε μή τις ὑμᾶς ἔσται ὁ συλαγωγῶν διὰ τῆς φιλοσοφίας καὶ κενῆς ἀπάτης κατὰ τὴν παράδοσιν τῶν ἀνθρώπων, κατὰ τὰ στοιχεῖα τοῦ κόσμου καὶ οὐ κατὰ Χριστόν· ⁹ ὅτι ἐν αὐτῷ κατοικεῖ πᾶν τὸ πλήρωμα τῆς θεότητος σωματικῶς, ¹⁰ καὶ ἐστὲ ἐν αὐτῷ πεπληρωμένοι, ὅς ἐστιν ἡ κεφαλὴ πάσης ἀρχῆς καὶ ἐξουσίας,

The only command in these verses is _____!

Beware - βλέπω, blepō - _____; _____ (on or at); beware of; consider, regard; Paul is telling us to “look out! Keep your eyes open!” There is a real danger which Paul wants us to be aware of.

I. Worldly Philosophies can _____ us (vs. 8)

Colossians 2:8 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,

Cheat - [UBS] συλαγωγέω, sulagōgeō - make a _____ of.

Paul is warning us that we can be taken captive by certain things. In this passage, it is not a physical captivity that Paul is concerned about, but rather a captivity of our minds and how we think and see the world.

A. Through philosophy

Philosophy - [UBS] φιλοσοφία, philosophia - philosophy (in a bad sense), human wisdom.

This word is literally “a love of _____,” but Paul is not using it here to describe a love of God’s wisdom. Instead this is referring to a mindset which does not come from God, but rather comes from man’s thoughts.

B. Through Empty Deceit

Empty – [UBS] κενός, kenos - empty, empty-handed; to no _____,

Deceit – [UBS] ἀπάτη, apate - deception;

Another way to describe these worldly philosophies is that they are “empty deceit.” They deceive us from the truth, and contrary to those who would insist that they still can help use, they are empty. They will not help us grow in our faith or come to know God in a better way.

Paul describes these philosophies:

C. According to the tradition of men

Tradition seems to be taught two ways in the Bible:

1) _____ tradition.

2) The traditions of _____. (Matthew 15:1-9; Mark 7:2-13; 1 Peter 1:17-19).

D. According to the basic principles of the world

Colossians 2:20-23.

These basic principles of the world seem to regard man trying to make himself righteous by works and not by God's grace. Notice that Paul states that these things have the **appearance of wisdom** but contain no real wisdom.

We must beware, be careful of worldly philosophies. It is important that we know what we are being taught, that it aligns itself with the word of God, and we must turn away from those philosophies which contradict the Bible.

II. Worldly Philosophies are _____ Christ's teachings (vs. 8, 9)

Colossians 2:8-9 and not according to Christ. ⁹ For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;

A. They are not according to _____.

1 Timothy 6:3-5

The direct contrast to these philosophies and empty deceits is the philosophy which is according to Christ.

B. All the _____ of God dwells in Christ.

Our source of knowledge and wisdom should be Christ. In Him and Him alone dwells the fullness of God. He is the only source of truth.

(Ephesians 3:14-19; Ephesians 4:11-13)

III. Worldly Philosophies _____ our position (vs.10)

Colossians 2:10 ¹⁰ and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

A. Our Position – _____ in Christ.

B. Christ's Position – _____.

(Ephesians 1:20-21; Romans 8:38-39; Ephesians 6:12; Colossians 1:16)

What do we need to do:

- 1) In order to beware of these empty and deceitful philosophies, we need to know the truth. We need to be in God's word. We need to take the teachings which our pastors are teaching to us and review and study these things (Eph. 4).
- 2) Once we know the truth, we need to embrace the truth. We need to be convinced that what God's word says is the truth and we need to believe it and live by it.
- 3) We need to examine what we are putting into our heads, whether it is on the radio, on T.V., in a book or in just talking to other "Christians." Are these things proclaiming the truth, or are they leading me down a path of human philosophy?