

Colossians 2:1-23 **Danger of deceitful persuasive words of Judaism**

Call to unity in knowledge of the Mystery of God

¹ For I want you to know what a great conflict I have for you and those in Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh, ² that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ, ³ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Danger of deception by persuasive words – Philosophy and empty deceit

⁴ Now this I say lest anyone should deceive you with persuasive words. ⁵ For though I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ. ⁶ As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, ⁷ rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.

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.

Circumcision made without hands

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, 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. ¹³ And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, 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. ¹⁵ Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

Let no one judge you or cheat you of your reward

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

Do not touch, taste, or handle false doctrine of Judaism (of men)

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? 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.

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Facts Revealed:

Call to unity in knowledge of the Mystery of God [Colossians 2:1-3]

- ✚ Paul has a great concern to the point of spiritual conflict for those believers he has never met face to face.
- ✧ Paul's great desire for them is that:
 - ✧ Their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love.
 - ✧ They may attain to all riches of the full assurance of understanding.
 - ✧ They may gain the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ.
- ✧ In the Father and in Christ are hidden **all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge**.

Danger of deception by persuasive words – Philosophy and empty deceit [Colossians 2:4-10]

- ✚ The above enlightenment is needful to strengthen the believers **lest anyone deceive them** with persuasive words.
- ✧ False teachers are very persuasive with their doctrines of men that has caused masses of people to stray from the truth. It is growing even more pervasive as we approach the time of the end. [Matthew 24:4-5, 24, Mark 13:5-6, 22, Luke 21:8, Romans 16:17-18, 2 Corinthians 11:3-4, Ephesians 5:6-7, Colossians 2:4, 2 Thessalonians 2:3-5, 1 Timothy 4:1-3, 2 Timothy 3:13, Titus 1:10-11, 3:3, James 1:26, 1 John 2:26, Revelation 13:11-17, 18:23-24, 19:20]
- ✧ The deception of the Judaizers was first mentioned by Jesus as He condemned their traditions. [Acts 15:2, Matthew 15:1-20, Mark 7:1-23]
- ✚ The question came to the Apostles as; **certain men came down from Judea** and taught the brethren, "**Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.**" [Acts 15:1]
 - ✧ This problem plagued the Church throughout the New Testament. [Acts 11:2, 15:1-31, 16:1-5, 21:17-25, Romans 2:17-29, 3:1-31, 4:1-25, Galatians 2:1-10, 5:1-15, 6:12-15, Philippians 3:2-9, Titus 1:10-16]
- ✚ Paul was encouraged by the report of the Colossians by Epaphras. [Colossians 1:3-8, 2:5]
 - ✧ Paul praised the Colossians with rejoicing in his spirit for the good order and steadfastness of their faith in Christ.
 - ✧ Paul's encouraging instruction is: As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. [Colossians 2:6-7]
- ✚ The danger of persuasive words to guard against is the error of false teachers of Judaism and false teachers of the time of the end: [Colossians 2:8, Matthew 24:4-5, 24, Mark 13:5-6, 22, Luke 21:8, Romans 16:17-18, 2 Corinthians 11:3-4, Ephesians 5:6-7, Colossians 2:4, 2 Thessalonians 2:3-5, 1 Timothy 4:1-3, 2 Timothy 3:13, Titus 1:10-11, 3:3, James 1:26, 1 John 2:26, Revelation 13:11-17, 18:23-24, 19:20]
 - ✧ 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.
 - ✧ Human philosophy is equated with empty deceit.
 - ✧ The traditions of men is the problem of the Pharisees and Scribes Jesus addressed as destructive. [Matthew 15:1-9, Mark 7:1-13]
 - ✧ To be caught up in the traditions of men, one is cheated from his standing in Christ given by the Gospel of Grace.
- ✚ In Christ dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. [Colossians 2:9]
 - ✧ As the Body of Christ, we as believers are complete only as long as we remain abiding in Christ.
 - ✧ Christ is the head of all principality and power. [Ephesians 1:15-23, Colossians 1:16]

Circumcision made without hands in Baptism [Colossians 2:11-15]

- ✚ Paul demonstrated that it was the influence of the Judaizers that were his center of concern by his reference to Gentile circumcision made without hands.

- ✧ This spiritual circumcision is done by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ.
- ✧ The illustration is in baptism showing that the believer is buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Christ from the dead.
- ✧ The result is that, you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, Christ has made alive together with Him, **having forgiven you all trespasses.**
- ✧ The handwriting of the requirements of Judaism that was against us, which was contrary to us, the written penalty for sins, Christ has wiped out, having taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.
- ✧ By the death and resurrection of Jesus, Christ has disarmed principalities and powers, making a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.
- ✧ The power of the enemy was the fear of the penalty of sin which was eliminated by the forgiveness provided in the death of Christ.
- ✧ The Resurrection of Jesus was the evidence that Christ triumphed over death and the grave.

Let no one judge you or cheat you of your reward [Colossians 2:16-19]

✧ Paul clarifies his meaning in regard to the things that will rob us of our relationship with Christ.

✧ The things men's traditions sit in judgment over are the things that involve **form** of worship.

✧ Food, drink, festivals, new moons, and sabbaths are shadows of things to come. (These things speak of Christ and the ages to come, but the substance is Christ Himself).

✧ False humility and worship of angels are things that intrude into things that are not seen and are evidence of one who is puffed up by his fleshly mind who is not holding fast to the head which is Christ.

✧ Christ is the Head from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase that is from God.

Do not touch, taste, or handle false doctrine of Judaism (of men) [Colossians 2:20-23]

✧ Paul concludes his instructions regarding the traditions of men.

✧ 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**?

✧ **Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle.**

✧ The rules and regulations all concern things which perish with the using--**according to the commandments and doctrines of men.**

✧ 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.**