

Col205 – Don't Be Fooled - Colossians 2:4-10

For a number of reasons – I very seldom start a msg

by FIRST Reading thru the passage of scripture
& then going back - & teaching thru it

But – let's try it today

Let's just read thru our vs's – with me subtly pointing out
the goal (the focus) - of the msg today

Colossians 2:4–10 (NLT)

4 I am telling you this so no one will deceive you (so no one will fool you) **with well-crafted arguments.** (I'm telling you this so you won't be fooled)

5 For though I am far away from you, my heart is with you (& I don't want you to be fooled). **And I rejoice that** (right now) **you are living as you should and that your faith in Christ is strong.** (But I'm concerned that you could be fooled)

6 And now (so that you won't be fooled), **just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him.** (or you may very well – be fooled)

7 Let your roots grow down into him (so that you won't be fooled), **and let your lives be built on him** (to protect you from being fooled). **Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught** (which will keep you from being fooled), **and you will overflow with thankfulness** (instead of being fooled).

8 Don't let anyone capture you (don't let them fool you) **with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense** (which is foolishness) **that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of**

this world, rather than from Christ. (don't let anyone, or anything – fool you – with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense)

9 For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body. (so why would you, foolishly, run after anything else?)

10 So you also are complete through your union with Christ, who is the head over every ruler and authority.

**Since You are complete, spiritually
thru your faith-union with Christ**

& **Since Jesus is the HEAD over Every Ruler & Authority**

then it would be FOOLISH – for you to be FOOLED

by **someone who is promoting some other way
to know God and be complete in him**

Does that give you a pretty good idea where we're going to today?

Let's Pray

Paul is worried about the church

**He was worried That the Colossian church
would be FOOLED – in 61 AD**

& **Paul would certainly be worried about
the church today being FOOLED**

Let me REWIND this letter a little bit

& **JUST LOOK** - at the **level** of **Paul's CONCERN**
that **you** & I **might** be **FOOLED**

Colossians 1:9 (NLT)

9 . . . We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding.

Colossians 1:11 (NLT)

11 We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need .

. .

Colossians 1:23 (NLT)

23 But you must continue to believe this truth and stand firmly in it. Don't drift away from the assurance you received when you heard the Good News . . .

Colossians 1:25 (NLT)

25 God has given me the responsibility of serving his church by proclaiming his entire message to you.

Colossians 1:27 (NLT)

27 . . . And this is the secret: Christ lives in you. This gives you assurance of sharing his glory.

Colossians 1:28 (NLT)

28 So we tell others about Christ, warning everyone . . .

Colossians 2:1–2 (NLT)

***1 I want you to know how much I have agonized for you . . .
2 . . . I want [you] to have complete confidence that [you]
understand God's mysterious plan, which is Christ himself.***

**THAT is the LEVEL of Paul's concern
that you & I – would NOT Be FOOLED**

& so today - he starts with Colossians 2:4 (NLT)

4 I am telling you this so no one will deceive you with well-crafted arguments.

The **PRIMARY FOCUS** – of the **book** of **Colossians** - is **this**

KNOW the **REAL THING** –
so that **you** will be **able** to **DISCERN** - the **FALSE THING**

KNOW the **Real Thing** – **So** that ***no one*** will **DECEIVE YOU**
with **well-crafted arguments**

KNOW the **Real thing** – **So** that you won't **BE FOOLED** →

By ALL the **FALSE things**
that are being **pushed** on **you** by **this World**

The Colossians hadn't been **FOOLED** - **YET**

But **Paul KNOWS** – The **Deceiver** is **coming** - **into the church**

& The Deceiver is coming to FOOL people into thinking

There is some "Better Way" – some "New Way"
some - "More Glamourous Way"

& Paul is desperately trying to prepare us

So we WON'T be Fooled

When the Deceiver - begins his work

& so he says – in Colossians 2:5 (NLT)

5 For though I am far away from you, my heart is with you. And I rejoice that you are living as you should and that your faith in Christ is strong.

I Rejoice that you're doing SO GOOD - Right Now

I Rejoice that your faith is SO STRONG - Right Now

But I'm CONCERNED for you – I'm WORRIED about you

Because I don't want you to be FOOLED

& so – Paul says in Colossians 2:6 (NLT)

6 And now, just as (in the same way as) you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him.

The word translated "Just As" means – In the Same Manner

In the Same Manner - that you Received Christ as your Lord

You Must Continue to Follow him

& HOW is it that we received Christ?

We received Jesus Christ into our Lives - By Faith Alone

**We received Christ – by putting our faith in him PERSONALLY –
By Trusting Jesus as our PERSONAL Lord & Savior**

**We began our relationship with Jesus by putting our Faith
in WHO HE IS - & WHAT HE'S DONE**

**We Didn't RECEIVE Christ
By Receiving a Philosophy – an Idea – or a Religion**

**We RECEIVED Christ
By Being Identified with him
By Becoming ONE with him – THRU Faith in Him Alone**

**& so – in order for us to NOT be FOOLED
by Empty Spiritual Philosophies & High-Sounding Nonsense**

In order for us to NOT be FOOLED by that

**We Must Continue to Follow Jesus
in the Same way that we first Received Him**

**Which is By Total Faith in Him – Personally
By Total Faith in our Personal Relationship with him**

We've got to let the ROOTS of our life

grow down into Jesus

in an ever-deepening relationship with him

& we've got to let our lives be BUILT on Jesus – Personally

Trusting Completely in WHO HE IS

Trusting Completely in WHAT HE'S DONE for us

Which is what Colossians 2:7 says (NLT)

7 Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.

In order to NOT be FOOLED by the COUNTERFEIT THING

We've Got to KNOW – the REAL THING - BETTER

We have got to know Jesus BETTER

We've got to let the Roots of our lives grow down into HIM

We've got to let our Lives be BUILT – ON Him

& AS we get to know the REAL THING – BETTER –

our Faith will grow STRONG in the truth

& THRU that deeper & stronger
relationship with Jesus

we will ultimately overflow with thankfulness

& So C28 Says this

Colossians 2:8 (NLT)

8 Don't let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ.

This is one of my family's Most Famous Vs's

We Kinda grew up with an Awesome Clothing Co / Evangelism Ministry - called C28

Breezy worked for them - & she learned the secrets of being a corporate buyer from them

& all of us we're involved with evangelism ministry side

& for a while they were actually putting our Word By Mail CD's in every online order

That was an Awesome Time for our Family

But the VERSE – is MORE Awesome!

Colossians 2:8(a) (NLT)

8 Don't let anyone capture you . . .

NKJ starts with the word – BEWARE

BEWARE – Don't let anyone FOOL You
Don't let anyone CAPTURE You

Colossians 2:8(b) (NLT)

8 Don't let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense . . .

I LOVE this line

Don't let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense

Don't we get so easily CAPTURED by empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense?

Isn't it amazing how easily people will Buy into Empty Philosophies and High-Sounding Nonsense

But then so Flippantly Reject the Supernatural, Miraculous Word of God?

The **Word of God** has been **Miraculously Proven over & over** again - for 2,000 years

in **every area** of **HISTORY, ARCHEOLOGY, & SCIENCE**

But if someone with a **Connection** to the **Oprah Winfrey show**

writes a book about **how** you can **get the Universe** to "**Bring to You**" **whatever YOU WANT**

We **snap that up** like it's **more true** than **GRAVITY**

**While at the same time Easily Rejecting the 2000 yr old PROOF
of the Truth of Jesus Christ in God's Word**

Guys – DON'T Get Captured

By empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense

WHY??

Well – **FIRST** – **Because** they **are**

empty philosophies and **high-sounding nonsense**

But – **SECOND** – **Because** of **what C28 says next**

Colossians 2:8(c) (NLT)

**8 (they are) . . . empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense
that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of
this world, rather than from Christ.**

These empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense

come from **HUMAN THINKING**

AND from **THE SPIRITUAL POWERS** of **this world**

Do we **THINK** – **that** it is **JUST Human Thinking**

that **comes up** with **crazy notion** that **you** can
control the **UNIVERSE** with **You Want**

Doesn't that **make YOU** - **LIKE GOD**

If **you think** you **can control** the **universe?**

& Do you realize THAT is exactly what LUCIFER wanted when he got thrown out of Heaven

Isaiah 14 says Lucifer wanted to BE LIKE GOD

& ALL of the Bible makes it clear – THAT did not go WELL for Him

& yet – we are SO QUICK to be CAPTURED
by the empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense

that Not-So-Subtly IMPLY
that we can be LIKE GOD in some way

& Col 2:8 says

<p><u>These</u> ideas <u>DON'T JUST come</u> from <u>Human Thinking</u> - <u>they come</u> from the <u>Spiritual Powers of this world</u></p>

& the GOAL of the Spiritual Powers of this World

is to CAPTURE US with ANYTHING
That is NOT THE TRUTH

The Spiritual Powers of this World
Don't Care WHAT you are CAPTURED BY

As long as it is NOT the Truth
of the Person of Jesus Christ

That's why the END of Col 2:8

SEPARATES All these things – into just TWO Categories

On ONE SIDE IS

Every Philosophy & Idea & Approach to God

that comes from Human Thinking

& from the Spiritual Powers of this World

On the OTHER SIDE

Standing ALL ALONE – is JESUS CHRIST !

That's How IT IS

Because Jesus Christ Stands Alone – in All Creation

WHY ?? – WHY Can the Bible say

that Jesus Christ STANDS ALONE – Opposite of every other
Philosophy & Idea & Approach to God??

WHY? – Because of What the Next Vs says

Colossians 2:9 (NLT)

9 For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body.

Contrary to what the Devil Wanted for Himself

& contrary to what the Devil wants you to Believe

There is ONLY ONE GOD

& in Jesus Christ

ALL the Fullness of God – Lives - in a Human Body

Jesus Christ IS God – In a **TENT of Flesh**
He is the **Fullness of God** – In a **Human Body**

& **so** – **How** Can **ANYTHING ELSE**
Make you **MORE COMPLETE** than **God Himself?**

THAT'S WHY everything else is **lumped together**
on the “**Empty Philosophies**” side

& **Jesus Christ** – **Stands** by **Himself** – as the **only GENUINE**
WAY – TRUTH - & LIFE

VS 9 says - in *Jesus Christ* lives the **COMPLETE FULLNESS**
of *God in a human body*

VS 10 says - **WE are COMPLETE**
Thru our **Union with Christ** – **BY FAITH in Him**

Colossians 2:10 (NLT)

10 So you also are complete through your union with Christ, who is the head over every ruler and authority.

The Bible makes it **clear**

That when we **put** our **Full Faith**
in **Jesus Christ** as our **Savior & Lord**

That we are **MADE ONE with Him** –
we are **United with him** – **Thru our Faith**

HIS life – Becomes OUR life

What **JESUS has done**

in **Conquering Sin, Death** & the **Grave**

Becomes what **WE have done**

thru our **Identification** with **him**

& **Vs 10** says – we are **COMPLETE** (*Spiritually*)

THRU our **Union** (*becoming ONE WITH*) **Jesus Christ**

We are COMPLETE in HIM

The **word means** we are **FILLED UP COMPLETELY**

Thru our **Union** with **Christ – By Faith**

& **US** Being **“ONE with Christ”**

& **US** Being **“COMPLETE in Christ”**

SETS US APART – from **Every other**

Spiritual Philosophy or **Idea** or **Approach to God**

BECAUSE – the **End of Vs 10** says

Jesus Christ is the head over every ruler and authority

**So – IF JESUS is the Head
over all Rulers and Authorities - - (& HE IS)**

**& IF JESUS is FULLY God
in a Human Body - - (& HE IS)**

**& IF WE are COMPLETE
thru our union with Jesus by Faith - - (& WE ARE)**

Then **WHY – WHY – WHY
would we be FOOLED into - being Captured By**

**empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from
human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather
than from Christ**

DON'T DO IT - - DON'T BE FOOLED

Put your Full Faith in Jesus Christ

**Send the Roots of your Life - Deep into Jesus
Build your Life on the Solid Rock of Jesus**

& DON'T BE FOOLED

Let's Pray