

No more Chains Pt 2

Colossians 2:8-15

- Paul told the saints at Colossi that because they've received Jesus as Lord then "**walk in Him**" in other words if Jesus is the Way, then stop looking for other paths to follow. He also said since we're tied together in love and held together by Christ, therefore stay within ranks and continue to move forward, and the way to do that is to become "**rooted and built up**". This is a double metaphor taken from the "**growth of a tree**" and the "**increase of a building**", for just as a **tree** needs to have good soil in order for its roots to spread far, wide, and deep, and a **building** needs a firm foundation in order to remain stable so a Christian needs Jesus to remain steadfast-strong

V8-15

- **V8** is the first of **4** warnings given by Paul in this section of the letter, and this is to beware of > **1**. Philosophy- Intellectualism, if you are not rooted in Christ, built up in His truth, established by His love and assurance, and head off to college, the real world, and start to listen to what others think is true, and believable, it will cause you to question what you already know is right. Paul says these philosophies are put there to cheat us, the idea is to rob you of what you have that's valuable, thieves don't break in to steal junk but things of worth, Satan is the same way > **Jn 10:10**- says Satan has come for no reason but to steal, kill and destroy what God has given us.
- He calls these philosophies "**empty deceit**" for it's rooted not in the truth of scripture but in the minds and hearts of men and their traditions, and it leads to a worldly mindset instead of a Christ like mind, how so? The Colossians we're being told that Jesus was not God, how could God die they said? But what they wouldn't acknowledge is Jesus was still alive, even when He showed Himself after the resurrection instead of believing they paid people to lie about > **1 Cor 15:3-6**- over **500** people saw Jesus many who were still alive, **Matt. 28:12-15**- says people would rather believe a lie than to embrace the truth of Who Jesus is and repent of their sins.
- **V9-10** in order to protect yourself and others from being taken captive, or being captured by the enemy, stay away from worldly philosophies and empty delusions that are geared to make us question whether God's Word is true or a fairy tell, can we trust it or do we trust ourselves? Paul says why follow something that's empty when you already have that which makes you complete, and that's the fullness of the Godhead which makes all of us complete in Him.
- This statement makes any argument that says the bible never said Jesus was God foolish, as this verse declares the Deity of Jesus because "**all the fullness of the Godhead dwells or lives in Jesus**", therefore He could not possible be a halfway god or a junior god, but fully God. He mentions body because when Jesus ascended He ascended into heaven in a body, after His resurrection Jesus was careful to tell the disciples to come and see that He was the same person in the same body, and that He was not a ghost or a Spirit, but that He was the God-Man. He is head over all principalities-powers, that's all beings, Angels, fallen or faithful, are subject to Him.

- **V11-12** this goes back to **V8** when Paul mentioned beware lest the enemy attempt to cheat us, if he can't steal it from you outright then he'll attempt to get you to give it away thinking you're getting a better deal. The tradition of men he spoke of was the Jewish religion "**Judaism**" which was steeped in culturalism, added man made interpretations to the scripture that fit their lifestyles and ideals like the "**Talmud**" and the "**Mishnah**", which have over **38** volumes just to interpret the **5** books of Moses, and how the Jews should operate their daily lives.
- None of which include Jesus and His first coming, they speak of the second coming as if it's the first, and completely miss that Jesus was coming to die for our sins, only that He's coming to redeem the Jews. So in their eyes if a person says they are following God and are faithful to Him but they haven't been circumcised then their faith, repentance, and commitment, is in vain. In Christianity there are some who use baptism in the same way the Jews use circumcision to determine whether they believe someone is truly walking with and in the Lord.
- But Paul makes it clear that the only cutting away that's needed is spiritual and that was done by repenting of our sins, and the baptism that counts is the acceptance that Jesus not only died on the cross but was dead, this was representative of the believer also dying to self and then being raised to a glorified state > **Rom 6:3-4**- don't misunderstand me all believers should be baptized as soon as possible once they are saved, but baptism its self doesn't save you, as you should already be saved when you get baptized, therefore it's an act of obedience not for salvation.
- **V13-14** before a person is set free in their new life in Christ they are dead in their sins and sinful nature, that's **100%** of the human population, and this new life begins once we have received forgiveness. Here is the key to both ministry and counseling, because at the root of most problems is the need for forgiveness, the parent who didn't protect us, the person who abused us, the spouse who left us, all are in need of our forgiveness, for just as Jesus has forgiven us who were once dead in our sins we must forgiven others who likewise are just as needy.
- "**Handwriting**"- is a certificate of debt, where the debtor acknowledges his indebtedness, and once the debt is paid in full then the ink would be blotted out. God did one better, our debt was un-payable, we could not get it erased ourselves only Jesus which is why He came down from heaven, in person, to die and take care of the debt personally, and then nail the certificate of debt onto the cross declaring that it is paid in full. **V15** is interesting it shows that Paul really knows his audience as he's speaking to gentiles and not Jews so they would get this analogy.
- When a Roman general would conquer an enemy he would return to Rome with a triumphal entry into the city. The general would first be followed by his soldiers and behind them were the defeated men chained often naked being led away in shame. This imagery Paul uses to describe how thoroughly Jesus has defeated the enemy of our souls, foiling his attempt to stop God's redemptive plan by going to the cross, and afterward going to the lower parts of the earth to let them know that they no longer have a hold on us > **1 Pet 3:18-19**- Hallelujah!