

ADDITIONS TO CHRIST (Colossians 2:8-23)

May 23, 2018----Pastor Larry Powell

1. There can be no doubt that for us this is one of the most difficult **passages** Paul ever wrote.
2. One thing clear is that the false teachers wished the Colossians to accept what can only be called **additions** to Christ.
3. They wished to teach men an additional philosophy (Colossians 2:8). As they saw it, the simple truth preached by Jesus and preserved in the gospel was not enough. It had to be filled out by an elaborate system of **pseudo**-philosophical thought which was far too difficult for the simple and which only the _____ could understand.
4. They wished men to accept a system of **astrology**. (Colossians 2:8).
5. They wished to impose **circumcision** on Christians (Colossians 2:11). Faith was not enough.
6. They wished to lay down **rules and regulations**. (Colossians 2:16, Colossians 2:20-23).
7. They wished to introduce the worship of **angels**. (Colossians 2:18).
8. Here there is a mixture of Gnosticism and **Judaism**.
9. One thing for certain is that the false teachers taught that Jesus Christ and his teaching and work were not in themselves sufficient for **salvation**.

Traditions And The Stars (Colossians 2:8-10)

False Teachers

10. He speaks of anyone who will carry you off as his **spoil**.
11. These men offer a philosophy which they declare is necessary in addition to the teaching of Christ and the words of the **Gospel**.
12. It is a philosophy which has been handed down by human **tradition**.
13. It is a philosophy which has to do with the **elements** of this world.
14. Paul insisted that you cannot at one and the same time believe in the power of **Christ** and the influence of the stars.
15. The false teachers were demanding that Gentile Christians should be circumcised for circumcision was the **badge** of God's chosen people.
16. Baptism in the time of Paul was **three** things.

17. It was **adult** baptism; it was instructed baptism; and, wherever possible, it was baptism by total **immersion**.
18. For Paul, that **symbolism** could become a reality only under one condition.
19. Men were **dead** in their sins. They had no more power than dead men either to overcome sin or to atone for it.
20. God took the indictment against us and nailed it to the **Cross** of Christ.
21. Man is no longer a **criminal** who has broken the law and is at the mercy of God's judgment; he is a son who was lost and can now come home to be wrapped around with the grace of God.
22. Jesus has stripped the powers and authorities and made them His **captives**.

In these vivid pictures Paul sets out the total adequacy of the work of Christ. Sin is forgiven, and evil is conquered; what more is necessary? There is nothing that Gnostic knowledge and Gnostic intermediaries can do for men--Christ has done it all already.