

“CHRIST ABOVE ALL”
STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF COLOSSIANS
Walk in Him and Avoid Counterfeits
Colossians 2:1-23

INTRODUCTION: A “*knock-off*”, an unlicensed copy of something, especially fashion clothing, intended to be sold at a lower price than the original. In other words a “*counterfeit*” is made to deceive or defraud you.

BACKGROUND: Paul was addressing some wrong ideas about Christ that were being taught in Colossae, Laodicea and Hierapolis (4:13). The teachers of these false doctrines were usually called *Gnostics*. The word Gnostics comes from a Greek word which means “to have a special knowledge of God.”

I. Walk In Him V1-7

- A. Paul was urging the Colossians to walk in Christ (V6), since he is the ruler of the universe, the firstborn of creation, and the bodily expression of God. He is the one who possesses all authority in heaven and on earth; the one who was able to die on the cross for a total remission of our sins. (Colossians 1:15-20) He is the “living water” that confronts and exposes what is not true. (John 4:14)
- B. The Colossians were being taught by persuasive words. This possibly had some Gnostic teaching rooted in it. Gnostic teaching taught that the true God did not create the universe. Some taught that Christ did not have a real body, but that it only seemed to be real. There was an emphasis on wisdom and knowledge and rejection of the body. (I Timothy 6:20-21), (I John 4:2-3) *What are we allowing ourselves to be taught other than Christ alone?* (I Corinthians 15:1), (Ephesians 2:8-9)

II. Beware Of Counterfeit Teaching V8-17

- A. The community of believers at Colossae were *plagued with opinionated people*. They tried to impose their preferences on others. Your preference is not God’s will. (Romans 14:1-23)
- B. Traditions or man-made religions should never supersede the word of God. If we embrace what is man-made over knowing the truth in Christ, we will find ourselves in some type of bondage. (Numbers 14:1-4, 11), (Mark 7:13), (Ephesians 5:6)

- C. Paul's warning should be taken to heart because counterfeit teaching will engorge our minds with "vain deceit" or "empty deceit". That is basically "high-sounding nonsense" which will draw us away from the truth. (Psalms 101:7), (Proverbs 12:5)
- D. We have liberty in Christ; He is the center of our truth. Without Him we are in bondage to sin. (Galatians 5:1)

III. False Doctrine Can Kidnap You And Abuse Your Faith V18-23

- A. Paul was addressing "a set of ideas or beliefs" that was being taught, which is called "Doctrine". He told Timothy to guard against those who teach heresies to confuse the flock. (I Timothy 6:3-4)
- B. As followers of Christ, we have no reason for allowing ourselves to be kidnapped by false doctrine because we have the full counsel of God by way of Christ Jesus. (Acts 20:27) We must avoid being isolated, because it sets us up to be kidnapped by the enemy. (Proverbs 18:1), (Proverbs 27:17), (Hebrews 10:24-25), (I Thessalonians 5:11)
- C. Paul also wanted the Colossians to understand we should not add to the teaching of Christ. V20 (Deuteronomy 4:1-10)

ONLY IN CHRIST WE ARE STABLE, ROOTED AND ESTABLISHED.

Colossians 2:6-7 So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, 7 rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

I John 4:1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.