

Introduction: Welcome, Teaching Practice.

>>> A. Background: Heart Of Letter And Teaching.

- Addresses False Teaching Attempting Greater Headway Into A Firm And Orderly Church.

>>> B. Several Components Of This False Teaching At Colossian Church:

- **Component 1: This False Teaching Implied That Christians Needed Something More Than Jesus For Complete Pardon From Sin And Victorious Power Over Sin.**
- **Component 2: This False Teaching Encouraged Unhealthy Fear And Concern With Evil Spiritual Entities And Powers.**
- **Component 3. This False Teaching Wrongly Emphasized External And Obsolete Regulations (Legalism.)**

- **Component 4: This False Teaching Wrongly Emphasized Self-Inflicted Bodily Suffering And Sacrifices For Spiritual Gain (Asceticism.)**
- **Component 5: This False Teaching Wrongly Emphasized Mystical Or Supernatural Experiences (Mysticism.)**
- **Component 6: This False Teaching Failed To Rightly Emphasize Godly Living And Loving Through The Power Of Jesus Christ. (Covered In Chapter 3.)**

>>> C. Explain Paul's Response To False Ideas Section By Section.

Colossians 2:6-7. Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

1. Christian Should Keep Going And Growing In Jesus Instead Of Being Spiritually Distracted.

Distracted Driving Illustration. Potential Disaster. Probably More Prone After Becoming Experienced Driver. True For More Mature (Experienced) Christians.

>>> **A. Many Things Can Distract Us From Jesus: False Spiritual Teachings. Political Issues. Social Justice Issues. Moral Reform Issues.**

- Everything In Its Proper Place And Emphasis. Keep Focus On Christ.

>>> **B. Verse 6. "As You Received Christ Jesus The Lord, So Walk In Him."**

- Initially Jesus' Position: Christ (Sovereign), Jesus (Savior), Lord (Son.)

>>> **C. Life Impact?**

- They Were Anxious About Spiritual Standing - Jesus The Savior.
- They Were Anxious About Life's Uncertainties - Christ Who Rules.
- They Were Anxious About Spiritual Entities - The Lord Over All.

>>> D. Walk In Him: Thinking And Actions Continue In The Same Direction. (No Detours.)

Changing NFL Game Plan III. Second ½ With Lead. Change Game Plan = Loss.

>>> E. Maybe A Word For Some Of You Today: Get Your Focus Back On Jesus.

>>> E. Verse 7. Expounds The Basic Idea Focusing On Jesus:

- Rooted In Him.
- Built Up And Growing In Him.
- Established In The Faith (In Him.)
- Just As You Were Taught. (Back To The Bible.)

>>> F. The Result Of Focusing On Jesus Christ The Lord?

- Fear? Worry? Uncertainty? “Abounding In Thanksgiving.”

Beatles Weird Song III. Get Back. One Line That Fitting. Get Back To Where You Once Belonged.

1. Christian Should Keep Going And Growing In Jesus Instead Of Being Spiritually Distracted.

Colossians 2:8. See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.

2. Be Alert To Spiritual Teaching That Seems Good But Distracts From, Or Lessens Dependence Upon, Jesus Alone.

>>> A. "See To It..." You Are Responsible For You Staying On Course Spiritually.

Provisions For Safe Spiritual Journey III. Map (Bible.) Empowerment (Spirit.) Divine Guidance And Warnings.

>>> B. "By Philosophy." Not Demeaning Of All That Is Called "Philosophy" Today.

- Modern Definition: A Study Of Reality. A Way Of Thinking About The World, People, Purpose, Morality, Etc.
- Greek Word Literally Means: “A Lover Of Wisdom.”
- “Philosophy” Refers To Erroneous Worldly Wisdom And Conjecture About Spiritual And Ultimate Matters. (False Teaching, Worldly Ideas.)

>>> C. Five Negative Characteristics Of This False Teaching.

>>> D. Problem #1: Enslaving. “Takes You Captive....”

- Examples Of Bondage: Guilt – Never Sure Of Standing, Bound To Unending Rules, Requirements, Pursuits Of Experiences. (No Rest!)

>>> E. Problem #2: Unfulfilling. “Empty Deceit...” Promises, But Does Not Deliver.

Restaurant Menu Picture Vs. Taste And Meal III. Where’s The Beef?

- Promises More: Insight, Joy, Peace, Intimacy, Power, Etc.

>>> F. Problem # 3: Unreliable Source. “According To Human Tradition...”

News Story III. “Reliable Sources...” Have Said....

- Doctrine, Excitement Based On: Heavenly Trip, Angelic Visit, Special Word, Man Or Woman’s Testimony. Apparition Of Mary. Questionable At Best!
- Why Not Get Truth, Joy, Excitement From Word Of God?

>>> G. Problem #4: Demonically Inspired. “Elemental Spirits Of The World.”

- Several Possible Interpretations: Most Likely = Demons (Pagan Ideas Inspired By Evil Spiritual Forces.)

1 Timothy 4:1-3. Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, ² through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, ³ who forbid

marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth

>>> G. Problem #4: Demonically Inspired. “Elemental Spirits Of The World.”

Accept A Package At Whitehouse From ISIS III. NO! Source = Dangerous. Note Genesis And Eve.

>>> H. Problems #5: Not About The Supremacy And Sufficiency Of Jesus.

- “Not According To Christ...” Not Giving Him Proper Place, Priority, Trust. Emphasized In Next Section.

2. Be Alert To Spiritual Teaching That Seems Good But Distracts From, Or Lessens Dependence Upon, Jesus Alone.

>>> Transition: Notice All The "In Him." "Through Him." "With Him."

Colossians 2:9-15. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰ and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. ¹¹ In him also you were

circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹² having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³ And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

3. Your Connection And Commitment To Jesus Have Provided All You Need For Pardon From Sin, Power Over Sin, And Protection From Evil Spiritual And Earthly Powers.

>>> A. Primary Problem: False Teachers Taught That They Needed Something More Than Simple Dependence On Jesus.

- Full Pardon From Sin. True Power Over Sin. Powerful Protection From Sinful Entities.
- Ceremonies. Regulations. Mystical Experiences. Harsh Bodily Denial. Etc.

>>> B. Verses 9-10. Jesus Is Fully God: "Whole Fullness Of Deity." "Head Of All Rule And Authority."

- Referred To Spiritual And Human Authorities And Powers. (Christ's Greatness.)
- "You Have Been Filled In Him." (Christian's Complete Connection/Union.)

Bill Gates III. Worry About Paying A Bill If Totally Connected To Bill Gates? (His Financial Greatness!) Why Worry About Paying Of Your Sin-Debt?

Weight-Lifting Team III. Doubt Your Ability And Strength To Move A Piano If Connected To The Olympic Lifting Weightlifting Team? Doubt Power Over Sin.

EM Club Fight III. Little Man. Under Elevated Building. My Arrival. Carrying 45. My Legal Authority. Comes Out: Very Confident Very Cocky. Why? With Me. Protected.

- You Are With Jesus, Fear Any Spiritual And Earthly Power?
- Jesus = Whole Fullness Of Deity, Head Of All Rule And Authority.

3. Your Connection And Commitment To Jesus Have Provided All You Need For Pardon From Sin, Power Over Sin, And Protection From Evil Spiritual And Earthly Powers.

>>> C. Verses 11-15. Outline What Has Happened To All Christians Via Their Connection And Commitment To Christ.

- Verse 11. Spiritual Circumcision "Made Without Hands"
- Incorporated And Marked As A Member Of God's Family Or The People Of God.

Romans 2:29. But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God.

>>> D. Brought Into Family By "Putting Off Of The Body Of Flesh, By The Circumcision Of Christ...."

- Cutting Off Of His Body Or Life. I.E. His Death.

>>> E. "Verse 12. "Buried With Him In Baptism" "Raised With Him." New Life And New Status.

- Spiritual Truth Symbolized In Water Baptism. Under Water = Old Life Is Dead And Buried. Coming Out Of Water = New God-Given Life Is Begun.
- Just Like The Resurrection Began New Life For Jesus.

Homeless Woman III. Bankrupt And Homeless Woman Marrying A Wealthy Rockefeller. New Status. New Resources. New Power. Completely New Life.

>>> F. Verse 13 Explains Verse 12's Symbolism: Dead, Uncircumcised...Made Alive, Forgiven.

- You And I Were Spiritually Dead To God Because Our Sin (Transgressions) Separated And Condemned Us. (Note Past Tense!)
- We Were Not Part Of God's Family. "Uncircumcision Of Your Flesh."

- “God (Not You And Me) Made Us Alive Together With Him.”
- “Having Forgiven Us All Of Our Trespasses (Sins, Wrongs, Failures, Shame.)
- *This One Phrase Might Be The Main Reason You're Here Today:* **All Our Sins.**

>>> **G. Past Tense: Guilty, Separated, Condemned. Now: Accepted, Included, Forgiven.**

>>> **H. Verses 14-15. Describe Outcome Of Connection To Jesus Even Further:**

- Canceled Record Of Debt (Sin Debt-Penalty.) Nailed It To The Cross.

Pastor And Cross On Stage III. Paper. Written Sin. Nailed To Cross. Gone Forever.

>>> **I. "Disarmed The Rulers And Authorities." Satan As Accuser. Guilty. Condemned. Separated. God Says: No More. Not True Anymore.**

- Disarmed = No Weapon To Hurt Us Spiritual.

>>> J. “Put Them To Open Shame.” Explain “Paraded.”

- Ancient Generals To Demonstrate Total Victory. “No Reason To Fear This Enemy Anymore....”

3. Your Connection And Commitment To Jesus Have Provided All You Need For Pardon From Sin, Power Over Sin, And Protection From Evil Spiritual And Earthly Powers.

Colossians 2:16-19. Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. ¹⁷ These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. ¹⁸ Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, ¹⁹ and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.

4. Be Careful Of Any Teaching Or Thinking That Emphasizes Legalism, Asceticism, Or Mysticism.

>>> A. Three Characteristics Of This False Teaching That Distracts Or Lessens Dependence On Jesus Alone.

>>> B. First: Legalism. Focusing On Adhering To Certain External Behaviors And External Religious Activities In Order To Be Accepted Or Blessed By God.

God Is NFL Scouting Agent III. Examining Your Achievements, Checking Test Scores, Skills, Training Regimen. Determine If And Where Drafted?

>>> C. Verse 16. They Were Focusing On Obsolete Old Testament External Regulations. Food. Drink. Religious Festivals. Sabbath Days.

- Happening In Modern Hebrew Roots Movement Today.
- Judged (Considered Guilty, Unspiritual, Rejected) For BLT Sandwich? Mowed Lawn On Certain Day!

>>> D. Verse 17. "Shadow" Picture Of Spiritual Truth Or Spiritual Reality.

- Picture Of Separation From World, Spiritual Rest (Sabbath) From All Own Works.

Baby's Ultrasound Image III. Stare At It? Talk To It? Hug It? No! Just A Shadow. Look Foreword....Now Full Life In Front Of You.

- Vs. 18. "The Substance Belongs To Christ." All About Jesus, New Life, Internal Changes.

Colossians 2:20-21. If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations— ²¹ “Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch...”

- Meaning: Quit Following In Order To Be Spiritually Free From Powers Of The Enemy. Christ Defeated Them!

4. Be Careful Of Any Teaching Or Thinking That Emphasizes Legalism, Asceticism, Or Mysticism.

>>> E. Second Characteristic = Asceticism. Verse 18a. “Let No One Disqualify You, Insisting On Asceticism...”

- Self-Inflicted Bodily Self-Denial, Undue Harsh Treatment Of The Body In Order To Please God, And Overcame Sin And Satan.
- Examples: Vows Of Silence Or Poverty. Denial Of Certain Foods During Certain Days. Insistence On Celibacy. Self-Flagellation. Arduous Pilgrimages. Long Prayer Times. Repetitive Prayer. Going W/O Sleep, Etc.

Colossians 2:23. These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.

>>> F. Characteristic 3: Mysticism Or Supernaturalism.

- Verse 18a. Let No One Disqualify You, Insisting On Asceticism And Worship Of Angels, Going On In Detail About Visions, Puffed Up Without Reason By His Sensuous Mind,

>>> G. Worship On A Higher Level Like The Angels Worship. Great Visionary Experiences. Details About What They Saw.

4. Be Careful Of Any Teaching Or Thinking That Emphasizes Legalism, Asceticism, Or Mysticism.

>>> H. Bible Speaks Of: Regulations To Obey, Self-Denial For Spiritual Reasons, Supernatural Experiences. Differences:

- Legitimate External Regulations, But Change Starts Inwardly.
- Self-Denial To Obey Christ.
- Supernatural Experiences But They Are Not The Focus Or Pursuit.

>>> I. None Of These Things: Legalism, Asceticism, Mysticism Gain Us Forgiveness From Sin Or Freedom Over Sin.

- None Of These In Brings Pardon Or Power: Only Connection To Christ.

>>> J. Quick Summary Of Passage: Two Short Sentences.

- Don't Get Distracted From Jesus.
- Don't Depend On Anything Else But Jesus.