

Colossians 2:8–15

<sup>8</sup> Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

<sup>9</sup> For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;

<sup>10</sup> and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

<sup>11</sup> In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ,

<sup>12</sup> buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

<sup>13</sup> And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses,

<sup>14</sup> having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

<sup>15</sup> Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

## *Beware of Spiritual Kidnappers* *Colossian 2:8-15*

INTRO:

Paul issues the first of three warnings to the Colossian believers and us in these verses and explains the reasons for the warning.

***I. Don't Allow Yourself to be Kidnapped (v. 8)***

***II. Why We Must Hold on to Christ (9-15)***

***I. Don't Allow Yourself to be Kidnapped (v. 8)***

**Colossians 2:8** *“Beware lest anyone [capture] you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.”*

A. The Apostle Paul told us in verses 6 how we need to walk in Christ. We must have an active growing relationship with the living God in Christ Jesus His Son. We might reply, *“Paul, why is this so important?”* Because, some folks out there where you live want to kidnap you away from Christ.

B. They want to make us unusable to God and miserable in our Christian lives, instead of living lives overflowing with thankfulness. They want us to live lives of regret. How will they try to capture us? They will attempt to make us prisoners ***“Through philosophy and empty deceit.”***

1. This philosophy, this way of looking at life, and deceitful thinking is characterized by First, (v.8) ***“the traditions of men.”*** These traditions are the teaching of others, not God, about what is real and what is the purpose of life. This can be other religions or it can be the idea that God does not exist and life is useless.

2. Second, it involves (v.8) ***“the basic principles of the world.”*** What are the elementary principles? This probably refers to the simple things that philosophies of the day focused, the basics of nature and not of God.

3. Third, the philosophy is not toward the realities in Christ but lead away from Him.

## ***II. Why We Must Hold on to Christ (9-15)***

***Colossians 2:9-15 “For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power. In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.”***

A. The Colossians believers and us must not let others try to capture us and carry us away from Christ because in Him God dwells in human flesh.

***(v.9) “For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;”***

There is no one else who is God in human flesh who lived among us. All other Christs are counterfeits and not the real thing. The Christ who dwells in us is the Christ who is God of very God.

B. We must not let others turn us away from Christ because,

***(v.10) “You are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.”***

The Greek says literally, *"You are filled full in Him."* The idea of fullness is a key idea in both Colossians and Ephesians. In Ephesians we read about our Lord Jesus, **Ephesians 1:22–23** *"And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all."*

He fills us by His Holy Spirit and empowers us to do His will. He fills us all.

C. We must not be led astray because:

**(v.11)** *"In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands,"*

This last category contains what Christ has done for each of us, His people.

1. First, He made us His own children. Circumcision was the symbol of the people of God. To the Jew there were two kinds of people in the world, the Jews, (i.e. the people belonging to God) and the uncircumcised, the Gentiles. Here Paul wrote that in Christ we who know Christ as our Savior are now God's people not because of physical circumcision but because of our spiritual circumcision in Christ.

2. Second, Christ made us to die together with Him and be buried and be resurrected in Christ.

**(v.12)** *"[We were] buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead."*

It is not the act of baptism which saves us. The reality that baptism pictures is how we are saved. He has delivered us from slavery to sin to give us an ability to obey and please God.

3. Third, our Lord has resurrected us from our spiritual death.

**(v.13)** *"And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him"*

We who were once dead in sin and unable to respond to God or please Him, He suddenly resurrected us together with the Lord Jesus Christ. We were translated from death to life.

4. Fourth, this salvation meant the forgiveness of all of our sins.

**(vs.13b-14)** *"[His resurrection means His] having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross"*

The Lord Jesus forgave all our sins. He did this by obliterating the list of indictments against us. He did that by nailing it to the cross. Because the righteous demand of the law is fulfilled, we are delivered.

5. Finally, because of the cross, the Lord Jesus has defeated once and for all the forces of Satan in the world. In other words, if we allow someone to take us away from Christ, we leave the victory side to join a side that has already lost the war.

**Colossians 2:15** *“[He has] disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.”*

What does this teach us?

First, we must take precautions to make our walk in Christ one that is rooted in Christ, growing and built up in Him because some would drag us away from Him.

Second, we must continually remind ourselves of the miracles that Christ did for us, and we must never let go of Him.

**Hymn# 368 All for Jesus**