

**BEWARE-PART 2
COLOSSIANS 2:9-23**

Introduction

We saw last week how that the Apostle Paul was warning this Church at Colosse as well as some others about some things that would move them away from the Supremacy of Christ in their lives.

He wanted them to know and understand several important things.

1. Vs. 3 – He wanted them to understand that ALL the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are to be found in Christ!

He shared this with them and warned them of those who would beguile them with enticing words. (Vs. 4)

2. Vs 6 – He wanted them to understand that the Christian life is to be lived the same way that it is received–By grace from Christ, through faith in Christ!

God desires for us to be both rooted and built up in Christ and established in the faith that comes from right doctrine! (Vs 7)

So, he warned them of those who were out to spoil them through philosophy and vain deceit by getting them away from focusing on Christ. (Vs 8)

3. Vs. 9 – He wanted them to understand that the fullness of the Godhead dwells in the Lord Jesus Christ and that the believer is complete in Christ!

**a. In Christ We Find The Completion Of Our Salvation!
(Christ is all I need!)**

Acts 4:12 “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”

b. In Christ We Find The Completion Of Our Sanctification!

Romans 8:29–“For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son.”

**BEWARE-PART 2
COLOSSIANS 2:9-23**

2 Corinthians 3:18–“But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

1 John 3:2–“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.”

1 Corinthians 15:49–“And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.”

c. In Christ We Find The Completion Of Our Glorification!

Romans 8:30–“Moreover who He did predestinate, them He also called: and whom He called, them He also justified: and whom He justified, them He also glorified.”

2 Thessalonians 2:13-14–“13But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:

14Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Philippians 3:21–“Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.”

Today we see how Paul cautions this Church in several other areas:

I. PAUL TOLD THEM TO BEWARE OF JUDAISTIC CEREMONIALISM! (2:11-17)

A. This Was A Real Problem In The First Century Church.

**BEWARE-PART 2
COLOSSIANS 2:9-23**

1. Many Jewish Christians felt it necessary for Gentile Christians to be circumcised and keep the Law of Moses in ADDITION to following Christ. **(cf. Acts 15:1-11)**
 2. The early Church had to constantly deal with this problem:
 - a. Which they did at Jerusalem (where the problem originated.) **(Acts 15:6-27)**
 - b. Paul dealt with this matter in his writings to the Romans, Galatians, Ephesians, and Colossians.
 3. Here in **Colossians 2:11-17**, Paul deals with the problem by pointing out several things:
 - a. Through baptism into Christ, we experience the "*true circumcision*", which is a cutting away of the sins of the flesh. **(2:11-13)**
 - b. By His death on the cross, Jesus has taken the Old Law out of the way. **(2:14-15)** **(cf. Ephesians 2:14-16)**
 - c. Therefore, we are to let no one try to judge (condemn) us in matters of the Old Law! **(2:16-17)**
- B. Today, There Are Many Who Still Try To Bind The Old Testament Law Upon Christians.**
1. Various denominations with their Sabbaths and food regulations!
 2. Other religions with their separate priesthood and many other practices that are based upon the Old Testament and not on the New Testament!

**BEWARE-PART 2
COLOSSIANS 2:9-23**

- C. Paul Wanted Them To Recognize Several Things:**
1. **We who are in Christ have died to the Law and Jewish ceremonialism.** (This especially pertains to Jewish Christians) **(Romans 7:1-6)**
 2. **We who are in Christ have been set free, and need to beware of becoming "entangled again with a yoke of bondage."** **(Galatians 5:1)**
 3. **If we seek justification by our observance of things found in the Old Testament Law, we are fallen from grace!** **(Galatians 5:1-4)**

So, we need to beware when people try to impose things upon us which are based upon the Law of Moses. Remember, "*you are complete in HIM.*"

**II. PAUL TOLD THEM TO BEWARE OF JUDAISTIC FORMALISM!
PAUL TOLD THEM TO BEWARE OF THOSE WHO TEACH
A WORSHIP OF ANGELS! (2:18-19)**

- A. Why Would People Worship Angels?**
1. They may have felt that angels were needed as "*intercessors*".
 2. They may have felt, with "*a sense of humility*", that they could not go to God (or even Jesus) directly.
- B. But There Are Some Problems With Angel Worship.**
1. It is actually the result of a "*false humility*" and based upon one's "*vain imagination.*" **(2:18)** **(cf. Hebrews 4:14-16)**
 2. It also diverts one away from Christ, Who is the rightful "*Head of the body.*" **(2:19)**

**BEWARE-PART 2
COLOSSIANS 2:9-23**

- a. For this reason, angels refused any semblance of worship. (*Revelation 19:10; 22:8-9*)
- b. And so did the apostle Peter. (*Acts 10:25-26*)

C. Today, Some Religions Have Developed A Counterpart To The Worship Of Angels.

1. Catholicism with its *veneration* or *reverence for and worshiping* of Mary and the "*saints*"
2. The reasoning is similar: "*humility*" ("*Oh, we need them to intercede for us!*")
3. Though an attempt is made to distinguish between "*veneration*" and "*worship*", in practice the distinction is lost among the average person.
4. And the result is still the same: "*not holding fast to the Head,*" venerating other beings rather than Christ!

BEWARE OF JUDAISTIC FORMALISM.

BEWARE OF THOSE WHO TEACH A WORSHIP OF ANGELS.

**III. PAUL TOLD THEM TO BEWARE OF ASCETICISM.
(2:20-23)**

Asceticism is practicing severe self-discipline and abstaining from pleasure with the purpose of making yourself more religious or spiritual.

A. Asceticism Has Often Been Offered As A Key To "*Self-Control*"

1. It might be through fasting or other forms of abstinence.
2. It might be through self abuse by beating one's self with whips.

**BEWARE-PART 2
COLOSSIANS 2:9-23**

B. But Asceticism Is Of No Real Value Against The "*Satisfying Of The Flesh.*"

1. As Paul points out in **2:23**.
2. In fact, transformation comes through "*renewing the MIND*", not afflicting the BODY! (**Romans 12:1-2**)

Those who "*set their minds on the things of the Spirit*" are the ones "*who live according to the Spirit.*" *Romans 8:5*—"*For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.*"

- a) These are the ones who by the Spirit will be able to "*put to death the deeds of the body.*" *Romans 8:13*—"*For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye **through the Spirit** do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.*"
- b) The "*fruit of the Spirit*" includes self-control. (**Galatians 5:22-23**)

C. Today, We Must Beware Of The False Claims Of Asceticism!

1. Now, I do believe that fasting has a place in the lives of Christians. (*cf. Acts 13:2-3; 14:23; 1 Corinthians 7:5; 2 Corinthians 11:27*)
 - a. But not for the purpose of developing self-control!
 - b. Rather it is a means of humbling oneself before God as we pray, that God might hear our prayer. (*cf. Ezra 4:3, 16; Matthew 6:17-18*)

BEWARE-PART 2
COLOSSIANS 2:9-23

2. Religions that would teach various forms of *"asceticism"* as a means of developing spiritual maturity would have us to believe that *"the secret"* to spirituality is in neglecting or abusing the body.

3. But Christ **IS** *"the secret"*, and by holding fast to Him we find the ability to *"crucify the flesh with its affections and lusts."*
Galatians 5:24— "And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts."

Conclusion

1. As we live the Christian life, striving to mature spiritually, beware of any doctrine or teaching of man that suggests we need more than Jesus Christ!

2. Remember, He is "THE" way (not "A" way) - John 14:6

3. And we are COMPLETE in Him!

The question is, are you IN Him?

Galatians 3:26-27— "For ye all are the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."