

Sunday, October 18, 2020—Colossians 2:8 Beware Lest Any Man Spoil You

### Colossians 2:8

- **Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.**
- **Beware lest any man spoil you**—the English verb “beware” carries the following meaning according to Noah Webster’s *American Dictionary of the English Language*:
  - “Literally, to restrain or guard one's self from. Hence, to regard with caution; to restrain one's self from anything that may be dangerous, injurious or improper; to avoid; to take care; followed by of before the thing that is to be avoided.”
    - Beware of the dog.
  - “To have a special regard to.”
    - Behold, I send an angel before thee--beware of him, and obey his voice. Exodus 23:21.
- The word “beware occurs 28 times in 26 verses in the King James Bible. It is most often used in the first sense of caution exercised towards anything that may be dangerous, injurious, or improper.
  - Matthew 7:15
  - Matthew 16:6
  - Philippians 3:2
- Colossians 2:8—caution is to be exercised “lest any man spoil you.” It is important to note that there are various meanings for the verb “spoil.”
  - To plunder; to strip by violence; to rob; with of; as, to spoil one of his goods or possessions.
    - My sons their old unhappy sire despise, Spoiled of his kingdom, and deprived of eyes.
  - To seize by violence; to take by force; as, to spoil ones goods.
    - This mount with all his verdure spoiled.
  - To corrupt; to cause to decay and perish. Heat and moisture will soon spoil vegetable and animal substances.

- Occurring 118 times in 106 verses, most often in scripture the word “spoil” is used in the military sense as in the spoils of war.
  - Numbers 31:9-12
  - Matthew 12:29
- Colossians 2:8—Paul is exhorting the Colossians to “beware” i.e., exercise extreme caution lest they be spoiled or taken as a casualty of war. This is not Paul’s first warning in this context.
  - Colossians 2:4
- It is high time that believers recognize that we are locked in a spiritual battle with spiritual wickedness in high places that is endeavoring to “spoil” us i.e., render us useless as ambassadors for Christ.
  - II Corinthians 10:3-5
  - Ephesians 6:11-18
  - II Corinthians 11:3—Satan will use what ever means necessary to beguile and fool us. Even things that we think are good and just.
    - What are you placing above God’s word in your life?
    - What are looking toward or trusting in when things go sideways in your life?
    - What are you striving in the negative sense to solve in your own power and strength and giving over to God in prayer?
    - We are called to standfast and hold the line.
    - Mention *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis
- Colossians 2:8—there are three categories or types of thought that Paul warns the Colossians to be “beware” of on account of their capacity to “spoil” people:
  - Philosophy and vain deceit
  - Traditions of men
  - Rudiments of the world