

Sunday, November 8, 2020—Colossians 2:8 Beware Lest Any Man Spoil You, Part 2 (Philosophy & Vain Deceit)

### Review

- It has been three weeks since we were last in our series of studies on the book of Colossians.
  - October 25—Preach the Word & The Spirit of Fear
  - November 1—Scriptures, The Kings of Old, & A Modern American Election
- Before taking a break for the Bible Conference and addressing the election we began talking about Colossians 2:8. Given our recent break from this series it seems prudent to review a couple things regarding Colossians 2:8 at the outset.
- **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.
- **Lest any man spoil you**—caution is to be exercised “least 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.
- 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

### **Philosophy and Vain Deceit**

- Is the first category of thought that Paul address. The English word “philosophy” is a translation of the Greek word *philosophia* which means the love or pursuit of wisdom. This is the only time the word occurs in the New Testament.
- The English word “vain” carries the following relevant meanings according to Noah Webster’s *American Dictionary of the English Language*:
  - Empty; worthless; having no substance, value or importance.
    - Palms 2:1
  - Fruitless; ineffectual.

- Proud of petty things, or of trifling attainments; elated with a high opinion of one's own accomplishments, or with things more showy than valuable; conceited.
- False; deceitful; not genuine; spurious.
- Matthew 6:7
- Matthew 15:9
- Romans 1:21
- Ephesians 5:6
- Meanwhile the English word “deceit” means:
  - Literally, a catching or ensnaring. Hence, the misleading of a person; the leading of another person to believe what is false, or not to believe what is true, and thus to ensnare him; fraud; fallacy; cheat; any declaration, artifice or practice, which misleads another, or causes him to believe what is false.
  - Stratagem; artifice; device intended to mislead.
    - Psalms 38:12
  - In scripture, that which is obtained by guile, fraud or oppression.
- Proverbs 12:5, 17, 20
- Romans 1:29
- Colossians 2:8—Paul’s warning is that the Colossians to not be “spoiled” through the “vain deceit” of “philosophy” and man’s wisdom.
- I Corinthians 1:17-31
- I Corinthians 2:1-5
- Colossians 2:8—recall that the Colossians had begun to embrace the ancient philosophy of Gnosticism in their midst, which is one of the reasons that Paul is writing this epistle i.e., to correct the doctrinal errors that some in the assembly were entertaining.

### **The Believer and Philosophy**

- Read from my pamphlet “[The Believer and Philosophy](#)”
- Acts 17:18, 28—Paul was a learned man who knew Greek philosophy.

- Titus 1:12
- Isaiah 1:18
- Read from my pamphlet “[The Logic of Grace](#)”