

Sunday, January 24, 2021—Colossians 2:18 Let No Man Beguile You of Your Reward

Introduction

- Last Sunday we resumed our study of the book of Colossians by looking at verses 16 and 17 of chapter 2.
- In doing so, we observed that Paul did not want the Colossians to allow themselves to be judged concerning the Jewish law. Why? Because in verse 14 we learned that Christ satisfied the righteous requirements of the Law and “took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross.”
- After the message last Sunday, I received a question, “Can anyone today legitimately be judged in these Jewish things? Perhaps up to AD 70, but after, not possible.”
- In my opinion, the answer is yes and no. While it true that the temple is no longer standing and has not been since AD. 70, there are still groups today would seek to place believers under the Law. Two such groups come to mind, the Seventh Day Adventists, and the new Messianic Movement.

Colossians 2:18

- **Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,**
- **Let no man beguile you of your reward**—the verb “let” is in the present tense, active voice, and the imperative mood i.e., Paul is commanding the Colossians to not “let” this happened to them. Paul does not want to Colossians to allow themselves to be “beguiled.”
- The English verb “beguile” carries the following meanings according to Noah Webster’s *American Dictionary of the English Language*.
 - To delude; to deceive; to impose on by artifice [trick or fraud] or craft.
 - Genesis 3:3
 - I Corinthians 3:19—“craftiness”
 - Ephesians 4:4—“craftiness”
 - James 1:22
- Colossians 2:4—Paul does not want them to be “beguiled” i.e., tricked, or deceived by “enticing words.” “Enticing words” are words that are intended to persuade in a bad sense in that they are designed to lead someone into doctrinal error.

- I Corinthians 2:4-5—Paul didn't use “enticing words” of man's wisdom when he preached the gospel.
- Colossians 2:8—Paul warned against those who would seek to “spoil” the Colossians or take them as a prize.
- Colossians 2:18—the specific thing that Paul does not want the Colossians to be beguiled of is their “reward.” The word rendered “of your reward” by the King James translators means “to defraud or beguile of the prize of victory.”
- It is ironic that we should arrive at this verse during a greater controversy in the body of Christ regarding the judgement seat of Christ (JSC). There are brethren currently teaching that the JSC is not for the body of Christ but the Little Flock.
- In Colossians 2:18, Paul is warning the Colossians to no allow themselves to be beguiled of their reward on account of embracing the Gnostic error.
 - Colossians 3:24
 - I Corinthians 3:8, 14
 - I Corinthians 9:18
- Colossians 2:18—Paul is commanding the Colossians (imperative mood) to not let themselves be beguiled of their reward. How?
- **in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels**—the people seeking to “beguile” the Colossians of their reward were using the tactic of “voluntary humility” to accomplish it. They put on a humble and lowly minded front. These false teachers were feigning the commendable Christian attribute of “humility” to deceptively gain converts.
 - Ephesians 4:2—lowliness
 - Philippians 2:3—lowliness of mind
- Colossians 2:18—these false teachers were using their false humility to promote the “worshipping of angles.”
 - Read note in the Scofield Reference Bible about the Gnostic error.
- **intruding into those things which he hath not seen**—the King James says that people promoting the Gnostic error of the “worshipping of angels” were “intruding into those things

which he hath not seen.” According to Noah Webster’s *American Dictionary of the English Language* the word “intruding” means, “entering without invitation, right or welcome.”

- There is much controversy in the body of Christ regarding the role of angles. Many claim they have seen angles. Many believe they have guardian angles. Textual variants and differences in translations have compounded the problem.
- The King James Bible explicitly states, “not seen” i.e., those who are promoting angle worship are intruding into things that they have seen and don’t know anything about. The reason the King James reads as it does is because there are two separate words in the Textus Receptus for “not” and “seen.”
- Modern versions read differently because their underlying Greek text reads differently.
 - Show examples using Blue Letter Bible.
- Contrary to popular opinion these textual variants do impact doctrine as it relates to the Angles and their relationship to the body of Christ. Are we able to see Angles today in the dispensation of grace, or aren’t we?
- **vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind**—these people that are intruding and carrying on about what they haven’t actually seen are vain and puffed up by their fleshly mind. In my mind, this final phrase of verse 18 impacts how one ought to understand the previous phrase. These folks promoting angel worship are “vainly puffed up” because they “intruded” into things that they actually know nothing about.