

Beware Human Tradition

Colossians 2:8

12/28/14
by Bob DeWaay

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Gospel of Grace Fellowship

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We Are Commanded to Watch Out

Colossians 2:8a (ESV)

See to it that no one takes you captive

- "See to it" means "watch out" and is imperative
- "Take captive" means "carried away as plunder"
- False teachers want to drag Christians away and make them serve themselves

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Philosophy and Empty Deception

Colossians 2:8b (ESV)

by philosophy and empty deceit

- "The philosophy" is a specific false teaching
- This is the means false teachers use to drag Christians away to plunder them
- The deception is called "empty" (*kenos*)
- The philosophy is both empty and deceptive

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Human Tradition Is a Source of Deception

Colossians 2:8c (ESV)

according to **human tradition**

- “kata” (according to) is a preposition of source
- Religions teachers want to enforce their traditions as if they were God’s word
- Religious leaders rejected Jesus for not submitting to their traditions (Mark 7:5)

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The Hostile Powers Teach Philosophy!

Colossians 2:8d (ESV)

according to the **elemental spirits** of the world

- The “*stoicheia*” are evil, spiritual beings
- They are mentioned in Galatians 4:3, 9
- Though linked to the physical elements, they were seen as spiritual beings

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The Philosophy Is Not From Christ

Colossians 2:8e (ESV)

and **not according to Christ.**

- See Colossians 2:7
- The Christ Hymn extolled the supremacy and sufficiency of Christ
- We have Christ and the Gospel, we do not need the traditions of men

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Implications and Applications

- We are commanded to resist false teaching
- There are spiritual consequences for not listening to Christ
- Traditions invalidate God's Word

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Do Not Listen to False Teaching

Titus 1:14, 15 (NASB)

not paying attention to Jewish myths and **commandments of men** who turn away from the truth. **To the pure, all things are pure**; but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled

- Purity comes from a cleansed conscience (Heb. 9:14)
- Human law-givers can make no one pure
- We must not act as judges of others

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There are Spiritual Consequences for Not Listening to Christ

2Corinthians 11:3 (NASB)

But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, **your minds will be led astray** from the simplicity and **purity of devotion to Christ**.

- Christ alone is the Head of the church
- Deception draws people away from Christ
- Colossians 2:19

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Traditions Invalidate God's Word

Mark 7:7, 8 (NASB)

"But in vain do they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the precepts of men. Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men."

- Human tradition has historically caused great damage to the faith
- God's word has sanctifying power, human tradition does not

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