

Wednesday in the Word

Digging Deeper

December 2, 2020

Colossians 2:8-10

Saying It All

- Philosophy; philosophia; the love of wisdom
- Vain Deceit; kenos apatē; empty delusion
- Tradition; paradosis; a giving over of oral or written instruction (of men)
- Rudiments; stoicheion; elementary particles or first cause of the universe

Our passage today opens with a list of four things to beware. The wording of verse 8 infers that we (the Colossians) can be spoiled (or seduced) by the teachings of men. This is one purpose for Paul's writing of this letter as the false doctrine of gnosis infiltrated the believers lives. These men or women would be those of the world. They might be educators, charlatans, ministers or scientists. We have all encountered them. An educator, trained to believe they know more than you, will presume to impart to you a slice of their knowledge. Their pompous mind feels that a slice is more than you can handle. They're all over YouTube and many, today, stand before college students. A charlatan will purposely mislead you, be it in your faith or your values, and will use what you believe to cause doubt, shipwrecking your walk with Christ. Pseudo Christian leaders abound today in well known organizations. A minister will profess a dead religion that pretends a form of godliness but denies its power. 2 Timothy 3:5. You've sat in those churches. A so-called scientist will tell you the latest accepted "truth" about the structure of the universe or the "evolution" of life without acknowledging the sanctity of life itself. The world is filled with esoteric 'know it alls' who feel it their duty to inform you of yet another "revelation of knowledge". Watch the news, listen to cosmologists, visit a school or a church, surf the web, peek into politics. Folks are scrambling to get the latest information. Daniel 12:4. Folks know what they want to hear. 2 Timothy 4:3. Look at the last words in Colossians 2:8. "Not after Christ" Those of us who have placed our trust in Jesus know and understand where the one and only Truth exists. John 14:6,16-17. Yet Paul's warning here is to Christians. Mark 13:22.

Perhaps the greatest lies proposed out there are the false teachings concerning Christ. Depending on which door you darken you may hear any of the following; He was a great teacher, rabbi, philosopher. He shared his doctrine 2000 years ago and died never to rise again. He started religions on other continents and planets. He was a failed messiah, a god in a box, He is a brother to satan, a created being. He was a space alien. He fainted on the cross. His body was stolen from the tomb. He had relations and children with Mary Magdalene. He was only a spirit being. He never existed. (Insert sad face). Some of these stories floated around Colosse. Some are floating around today. All the above prognosticators from verse 8 will adopt or add their own convictions concerning our Lord. What they cannot and will not do is accept the biblical truth of who Jesus truly is. Verse 9 claims, "For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily" Jesus is God in the flesh. Simple. Undebatable. Clear. Why would so many seek to destroy such a concept? Simple. Truth and Light expose Lie and Darkness. John 1:5, 3:19, 8:12. The world hates our Savior and us. Luke 6:22, John 7:7, 15:18-19. This hatred gives them the feigned right to attack and destroy what they so fear. We who honestly accept Him, humble ourselves and choose to believe Him and His Word. His claims of unity and equality with

God, as we've explored earlier in Colossians and throughout the Scriptures are undeniable and we are quite content to know Him as He defines Himself. John 1:12, 5:24.

After all this warning and confirmation we arrive at maybe the most comforting verse in Paul's letter. Verse 10. "And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power". Imagine for a moment that the most profitable and influential business in the world has hired you on to have someone to benefit and keep in their care. We are complete (plēroō; crammed full, packed to abundance) in Him! So much for us! He is the Head of every creature. He is in charge of all there is. Science recently "discovered" the God Particle. The Higgs Boson purportedly gives mass to all the particles of the universe. Meanwhile they also claim all particles are massless points of energy. Phooey on all that! Our God is the Head of all principality and power! When His hour comes He will display His might and wisdom and control and when His will is full He will release all the universe from its bonds and bring to fruit His new creation! Revelation 21:1-7. He's in charge and we are complete in Him! Everybody breathe!