

A CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW (Part One)

Colossians 2:8-15

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Life's Most Important Questions

• Who am I? • Where did I come from? • Why am I here? • Where am I going? • How do I get there?

• The Atheist Worldview...

• The Humanist Worldview...

• The Agnostic Worldview...

The Christian Worldview.

Who am I?	<i>A precious child of God</i>
Where did I come from?	<i>An all-loving Creator</i>
Why am I here?	<i>To glorify God and enjoy Him forever</i>
Where am I going?	<i>To spend eternity in His heaven</i>
How do I get there?	<i>By trusting only in the shed blood of Jesus Christ on my behalf</i>

Colossians 2:8-15 "See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ. For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority; and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ; having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him."

I. THE THREAT TO OUR CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW

Colossians 2:8 "See to it that no one takes you captive..."

takes you captive = Greek: sulagogeo = kidnap, carry off as a slave

"Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves." (Matthew 7:15)

cf. 2 Tim 3:6; 2 Pet 3:1; Acts 20:28-32

A. The Captivating Method

Colossians 2:8 "See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception..."

1. Taking People Captive Through Earthly Philosophy

Colossians 2:8 "See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy..."

philosophy = Greek = philos + sophia = love of wisdom

James 3:13-18 "Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom. But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace."

Man's Wisdom vs. God's Wisdom

The fruit of man's wisdom is disorder and every evil thing.

The fruit of God's wisdom is righteousness and lasting peace.

2. Taking People Captive Through Philosophy and Empty Deception

Colossians 2:8 "See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception..."

• Heb. 3:13 — the "deceitfulness of sin."

• Matt. 13:22; Mk. 4:19 — "the deceitfulness of riches"

2 Peter 2:13 regarding false teachers who "...count it a pleasure to revel in the daytime. They are stains and blemishes, reveling in their deceptions, as they carouse with you..."

Philosophy of Despair vs. Philosophy of Hope

"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." (John 10:10)

"For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation..." (Acts 13:36)

"They have become futile in their speculations and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools." (Romans 1:21-22)

B. The Captivating Message

Colossians 2:8 "See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men..."

1. Packaged with the Traditions of Men

traditions = Greek: paradosis = handed down from generation to generation

1 Corinthians 11:2 "Now I praise you because you remember me in everything and hold firmly to the traditions, just as I delivered them to you."

"So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word *of mouth* or by letter from us."

- Matt. 15:3 speaks of those who transgressed the commandment of God for the sake of their tradition.
- Matt. 15:6 speaks of those who invalidated the word of God for the sake of their tradition.
- Mark 7:8 speaks of those who neglected the commandment of God by holding to the traditions of men.
- Mark 7:9 speaks of those who nicely set aside the commandment of God in order to keep their tradition.

2. Packaged with the Elemental Principles of the World

Colossians 2:8 "See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world..."

"the elementary principles of the world" = Greek: stoicheia = things in a row/elements of learning/basics
(cf. Gal. 4:3, 8-9; 2 Pet. 3:10; Col. 2:18))

1. Some false teachers have a way of presenting things that make it seem so simple...
2. Other false teachers make the simple complicated...
3. Still others mix the complex with the simple and the simple with the complex.

Galatians 4:3 "So also we, while we were children, were held in bondage under the elemental things of the world."

Galatians 4:9 "But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how is it that you turn back again to the weak and worthless elemental things, to which you desire to be enslaved all over again?"

Colossians 2:20 "If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees, such as...." (Why do you reduce your life to a list of rules?)

Hebrews 5:12 "For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food."

Conclusion:

What really is your worldview today? How would you answer the fundamental questions of life?

- Who am I?
- Where did I come from?
- Why am I here?
- Where am I going?
- How do I get there?

See you next time for Part Two...