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November 2, 2014

## The Simplicity of the Gospel...Back to the Basics (Col.2)

Today we live in a very complicated busy complex \_\_\_\_\_..with opinions and input across the board concerning, among other things, the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of life. With so many ideas and answers it may seem odd if not simplistic to say the answer, the complete answer and the \_\_\_\_\_ answer to all of life's questions is \_\_\_\_\_. Is it really that simple? Is He truly \_\_\_\_\_ that we need for this life and in the future?

Well, that's what the Bible says and that's what Jesus claimed. You see Jesus claimed to \_\_\_\_\_ God and claimed to be the \_\_\_\_\_ Savior. In Col. 2, Paul makes an amazing statement concerning Christ. "In whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." That's a bold statement! Paul says all wisdom all knowledge all that wisdom and knowledge have to offer is \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus Christ. Really?

Absolutely!! You might say, "isn't that just a religious viewpoint?" No. This is an authoritative statement made in God's word and the very next verse says, Col. 2:4 "I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine – sounding arguments." Don't let \_\_\_\_\_ try to take the truth from you! Everything that has real value, real meaning in life...this life and the life to come is found in \_\_\_\_\_. Heb. 10:14 says, "He made perfect forever those who are set apart to Him." Col. 2:10 says, "and you have been given fullness in Christ..." In Him you are made \_\_\_\_\_!

### Four Areas that Clutter the Simplicity of the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ

Four areas that Paul warns could "take you captive" (vs.8), could deceive you by "fine –sounding arguments" (vs.4). When he wrote to the Corinthians he said "I'm very worried about you" because false teachers were coming in and confusing them and in 2Cor.11:3 he said, "I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ." Here in Colossians Paul points out 4 areas that assault the simplicity of Christ and the Sufficiency of Christ and ultimately rob Him of His glory and "plunder" you.

I. \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 8): Paul has just said to the Colossians 1:15-22, so Christ is \_\_\_\_\_ and Paul says in 2:6 continue to live "in \_\_\_\_\_". He is all sufficient. It is not Christ plus something that makes you complete. You \_\_\_\_\_ complete in Christ.

A. Paul calls man's philosophy "hollow and deceptive" based on the principles of the \_\_\_\_\_. This refers to whatever systems men invent...ideologies philosophies, psychologies, theories of religion. Everyone has their idea of God and truth and life and morality. From authors, to playwrights, to movie producers to talk show hosts to psychologists to religious leaders. Men with high \_\_\_\_\_ coming up with their own idea of truth or today saying there really is no truth, no \_\_\_\_\_ truth. You have your truth and I have my truth. Paul says don't be taken \_\_\_\_\_!

B. Human "truth" is based on "this world". If you want to know divine truth, supernatural truth...don't go to a human \_\_\_\_\_. 1 Cor. 2:14. And notice what Col 1:13 says in light of their faith in Christ (1:3). He says there are two kingdoms, two kings, darkness/light, satan/Christ. 1 Vs. 21 says once we were enemies now reconciled, redeemed, forgiven without blemish and free from accusation.

Human truth is \_\_\_\_\_! It's origins are the "basic principles of this world" It's men with high IQ's confined in their time/space box Nobody gets out. The only way we will know anything is if God comes in. Did He ever do that? \_\_\_\_\_ Jn. 3:13.

So mankind is earthbound and comes up with his \_\_\_\_\_ truth. It's "baby talk", it's elementary, it's "basic", rudimentary based on \_\_\_\_\_ knowledge. It's like when brilliant minds thought the world was flat for centuries. Paul says, "don't be taken captive!"

**II.** \_\_\_\_\_: The 2<sup>nd</sup> assault on the sufficiency of Christ is \_\_\_\_\_ religion. Col 2:16. Don't allow yourself to be judged as somehow guilty before God because you don't \_\_\_\_\_ enough stuff. You \_\_\_\_\_ do enough to be righteous! That's \_\_\_\_\_ Christ came (vs. 13-15). Ceremony and ritual won't do it. Listen, these were "shadows" of the things to come. The Sabbath pointed to our ultimate rest in Christ. \_\_\_\_\_ is our Sabbath. These were figures, shadows of something not yet come but retaining the figure \_\_\_\_\_ Christ has come DENYS the fulfillment!! You are \_\_\_\_\_, full IN HIM!!

**III.** The third area that can intimidate Christian into believing their faith in Christ alone is somehow incomplete is \_\_\_\_\_. The thought is somehow really \_\_\_\_\_ people connect with God through some special experience or feeling.

**A.** Some count on their vow of poverty..."false humility".

**B.** Some count on the worship of angels-believing you can transcend this life and touch the throne of God by \_\_\_\_\_ with angels.

1. The Essenes (a Jewish sect) in Paul's day.

2. Roman Catholicism-A whole theology on the veneration of angels.

3. Some count on visions, on things they've seen, secret revelations

Paul says "don't let them disqualify you for the prize" Don't let them \_\_\_\_\_ you. It will rob you of your spiritual life and your reward because you will trust in something \_\_\_\_\_ than Christ alone and it robs Him of His glory. If you give authority to anything other than the written word and the Incarnate Living Word (Christ) you detract from His \_\_\_\_\_. You are complete in Him!!

Today we see televangelists speaking of visions and revelations and talking to angels and "such a person goes into great detail about what he has seen and his unspiritual mind puffs him up with idle notions." Col 2:18. They've lost connection with the Head of the Church...\_\_\_\_\_, All of a sudden Christ isn't the issue but they are with their mystical experiences and visions. You cannot exalt Christ and yourself at the same time.

**IV.** The last warning Paul makes is \_\_\_\_\_. Man made commands and teaching concerning what to touch, what to eat, self flagulation and harsh treatment of the body. It is only the commandments and teaching of men giving the appearance of wisdom and results in \_\_\_\_\_ humility but lacks \_\_\_\_\_ value. Vs. 20 says "you died with Christ to the world's rules" You therefore live in a new world a new kingdom. Vs. 13 says "God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us \_\_\_\_\_ our sins."

Don't submit yourself to the world's rules again-they're \_\_\_\_\_! Anything you do to your body is worthless in terms of spiritual benefit other than submitting your body in obedience to the truth of God. Everything you ever need is in Christ and Christ \_\_\_\_\_. To imagine that you need Christ plus human wisdom, keeping external rules, speaking in a heavenly language, seeing visions, interacting with angels, inflicting pain on yourself, living in self denial is allowing yourself to be "taken captive". All you need is Christ! In Him is complete forgiveness, victory over sin, redemption, life, the new birth, peace, truth, a new nature, a new heart, adoption into the family of God. In Him you are \_\_\_\_\_! All truth, all wisdom, all knowledge, all understanding, all satisfaction, all purpose, all deliverance, all strength, all comfort and all eternal hope is in Christ. To have Him is to have \_\_\_\_\_. These are called "the unsearchable riches of Christ."