

**BEWARE!-PART 1
COLOSSIANS 2:1-10**

Introduction

There is probably no one person in Scripture, but Christ Himself, who suffered as much turmoil, suffering and pain as the Apostle Paul. (2 Corinthians 11:23-30).

Having said that, there is probably **no one person who was as full of God-given hope as the Apostle Paul!**

1. **Paul experienced sufferings for the cause of Christ, yet he rejoiced! (Colossians 1:24)**
2. **Paul realized that He had been given the stewardship of the Gospel for his generation! (Colossians 1:25-26)**
1 Thessalonians 2:4 "But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts."
 - a. **The Gospel is no ordinary message but it is an eternally fulfilled promise of God of an incredible relationship.**
Vs 27 "Christ in you, the hope of glory."
 - b. **This experience with Christ and in Christ brings with it:**
 - 1) **Hope – A confident expectation or a sure expectation!**
 - 2) **Glory – That is, the full manifestation or realization of God and all He has laid up for us!**
 - c. **That is why Paul preached:**
 - 1) **Warning every man...and**
 - 2) **Teaching every man...so that he could**
 - 3) **Present every man perfect or mature in Christ!**
 - d. **Paul did this, not in his own power, but rather according to God's working in his life. (Colossians 1:29)**

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In **chapter 2**, we see Paul pastoring through his letter here to the Church! Now understand that **the great dangers in the Colossian Church that Paul saw, are similar to the great dangers in our day!**

They were then and are now twofold:

1. **Unfortunately, there is the possibility of being moved from a firm foundation in Christ by persuasive speech and philosophy!**
2. **Further, there is the possibility or danger of being steeped in religious ritual instead of in Christ Himself!**

Read Text: Colossians 2:1-10

Though Paul was not actually in the presence of those to whom he was writing, he exhibits here a **pastoral concern for the congregation the Church at Colosse, the Church of Laodicea, as well as other Churches that he had not had the opportunity to visit.**

I want us to see three things here: **Paul's Concern For The Church; Paul's Course For The Church; and His Caution To The Church.**

I. THE CONCERN FOR THE CHURCH! (vs. 1-3)

A. His Concern For Them Was Great! (vs. 1)

1. **He Was Concerned For Them! (vs. 1a)**
The word "*conflict*" here means "*an effort or anxiety*"
2. **He Was Concerned For Others! (vs. 1b)**
This included the Laodicean Church and others who had not seen him face to face. What has the greater impact? A letter or a face to face meeting?

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- B. His Concern For Them Was Godly. (vs. 2-3)**
- 1. He wanted them to be comforted together! (vs. 2a)**
“That their hearts might be comforted. . .”

Now, **Who is the source of that comfort?**
God Himself! 2 Corinthians 1:3–“Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort.**”
 - 2. He wanted them to be compacted together! (vs. 2b)**
“. . .being knit together in love. . .”

“**knit together**” means “to drive together, i.e. unite (in association or affection)”
 - 3. He wanted them to be conformed together! (vs. 2c-3)**
“. . .and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgment of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”

THE CONCERN FOR THE CHURCH...

II. THE COURSE FOR THE CHURCH! (vs. 4-7)

- A. Paul Wanted Them To Be Watchful Of Con Artists! (vs. 4-5)**
- 1. They Needed To Guard Their Minds! (vs. 4)**
They needed to be **watchful of those who might beguile them or deceive them with *enticing words!***

What does he mean by “**enticing words?**”:

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- a. Enticing words can be persuasive speech that uses plausible, but false arguments.**
2 Corinthians 11:3-3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

(Genesis 3:1ff)
- b. Enticing words can be fine sounding arguments.**
Think of Samson falling for Delilah’s enticements in Judges 16.

Think of all the lying prophets mentioned in 2 Chronicles 18:12-22
- c. We need to understand that truth and persuasion do not always correlate.**
(1 Corinthians 2:1-5)
Proverbs 1:10 My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not.

They Needed To Guard Their Minds...

- 2. They Needed To Guard Their Manner! (vs. 5)**
 - a. Paul Was Concerned About Their Order!**
Just as he told the Corinthians, the LORD wants all things to be done *decently and in order!* (1 Cor 14:40)
 - b. Paul Was Concerned About The Steadfastness Of Their Faith!**
steadfastness = stability; established

Cf. Ephesians 4:11-15

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Paul Wanted Them To Be Watchful Of Con Artists!

B. Paul Wanted Them To Be Walking In Christ! (vs. 6-7)

1. Walking in Christ. (vs. 6)

We received Christ Jesus the Lord by grace through faith. Therefore, the walk of the believer is to be a walk that is also by grace through faith!

2. Walking on course. (vs. 7)

a. The walk of the believer is to be a walk that is firmly **rooted** in Christ!

Ephesians 5:1-2 "Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; 2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour."

b. The walk of the believer is to be a walk that is **built up** in the things of Christ!

1 Corinthians 3:9-10 "For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. 10 According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon."

c. The walk of the believer is to be a walk that is **established in the faith!**

Think... *"I shall not be I shall not be moved"*!

d. This walk of the believer will abundantly flow from the one that is abiding in Christ!

Again, that's where it comes from!

THE CONCERN ...THE COURSE FOR THE CHURCH...

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III. THE CAUTION TO THE CHURCH! (vs. 8)

A. Paul Told Them To Beware Of Philosophy And Vain Deceit! (Vs 8a)

Philosophy is the love and pursuit of wisdom.

He particularly is warning here against deceptive reasoning that is sound in appearance only. *"That sounds pretty good!"*

Someone has said this about philosophy:

"False philosophy is like a blind man looking in a dark room for a black cat that isn't there."

"Philosophy is the science of learning more and more about less and less until finally you know everything about nothing."

"Vain deceit" = "Empty delusions."

B. Paul Told Them To Beware Of The Traditions Of Men And Rudiments Of The World! (vs. 8a)

So, what are the characteristics we should beware of?

1. Beware of anyone who elevates the writings of men over the Word of God! (Matthew 15:2-9)

2. Beware of anyone who tries to rationalize the Word of God away. (i.e. Tries to explain it away.)

Genesis 3:4-5-"And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil."

John 17:17-"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."

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3. **Beware of anyone who denies Christ's deity or any of His divine attributes. (2 John 9-10)**
4. **Beware of anyone changing God's salvation and adding works to it.
(Galatians 1:6-9; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4)**

To avoid these things, one must **be very knowledgeable of real truth!**

1 Peter 1:13—"Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."

Conclusion:

So, I caution you today as Paul cautioned the Colosse Christians. Beware of those who would deceive you with enticing words, with philosophy, and with vain deceit! Stick with the simplicity that is in the Lord Jesus Christ!

Abide in Christ, for in Him are all of God's treasures of wisdom and knowledge. In Him is the fullness of the Godhead bodily! And those of us who are believers are complete in Him!