

The Work of Believers

Colossians 2:8

Discerning Philosophies

Introduction: Satan's two part plan: First, prevent; second, create confusion. The best way to battle this is to battle our sin.

Colossians 2:8-15 - Two pronged challenge: Fair warning - deception abounds (8); Jesus Christ is sufficient! (9-15)

'See to it' that you are captured by Christ!

Four characteristics of deceit: wrong philosophy; empty and deceitful; from the world; and not of Christ.

Philosophy - This word governs what Paul describes in these verses.

Empty deceit - Information void of intellectual, moral or spiritual value

- **Worldviews** -

Three worldviews, Biblical Christianity, Secular Humanism and Marxism/Leninism and cover:

Theology, Philosophy, Ethics, Biology, Psychology, Sociology, Law, Politics, Economics, History

Conclusion: First, our responsibility is to the sphere of influence that I have, that we have. (Romans 12:2)

Second, a worldview is a mental map that guides us to truth in our inner life. (Psalm 119:105)

Third, a worldview is something that we learn from God. (2 Corinthians 10:5)

Two icons in the Colossian culture;

Human tradition - Mark 7:5-6; 1 Peter 1:18

Elemental spirits - 1 Corinthians 1:18-21; Galatians 4:3

According to Christ - Christ is sufficient!

Conclusion: Spiritual discernment is critical and will guard us from sorts of trouble.

Giving a reason for the hope that is within us (1 Peter 3:15) begins in the home (Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Proverbs 22:6) and is essential for maturity (Romans 12:2).

There are two discernment give-aways in our verse, "according to human tradition" and "according to the elemental spirits of the world". They are both from 'the world'.