

I. Continue - Col. 2:4-7

1. Direct as to why he is stating these things (**verse 4**)
 - A. So, you can't be deceived
 - so, they were dealing with false doctrines about Christ
 - B. They were "fine-sounding" arguments
- Rea -the "truth" on television takes many forms - doesn't it? - and all of them sound so good
2. You need be "disciplined" in how you believe about Jesus Christ (**verse 5**)
 - your "faith" in Christ
- Rea -"firm" faith and "disciplined" faith are equated here
- Rea -the implication is that some have a doctrine/ teaching that makes Christ different
3. You received Christ as Lord, so continue in Him (**verse 6**)
 - the walk post-salvation
- Rea -it has been my privilege to sometimes "struggle with" other believers. Often, I need to encourage them that they are already on the right track, they just need to continue
4. Rooted, and built up (**verse 7**)
 - A. Here he defines "continue" in verse 6
 - B. Both "rooted" and "built up" are foundational analogies
 - as roots are to a tree, so the foundation is to the house
 - C. Strengthened in the faith
 - D. Overflowing with thankfulness
- Rea E. Two aspects of the "continuing" faith
 - this is an admonition or command - do this!
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
 1. These verses state a purpose for writing them in the first place
 2. Colossians is one of the more philosophical books of the New Testament - giving us teaching in what to believe and what not to believe
 3. Verses 6-7 show us what a firm foundation will do for us
 4. Do you believe the average church is "rooted?"

II. Be Careful - Col. 2:8-10

1. Don't be taken captive (**verse 8**)
 - How?
 - A. Through hollow and deceptive philosophy
 - B. A philosophy that depends on human tradition and elemental forces - rather than Christ
2. Human tradition - could be the tradition of the Jews
- Rea -could carry the "feel" of "wisdom sayings" of our time - truths that are more of Aesop's fables than the gospel of the blood
3. Elemental spirits
 - angel worship is mentioned at verse 18

- Rea -though other “beings” are real (see Eph. 6:10ff) they are not to be worshiped and we have all we need in Christ. It is more than possible to get more carried about angels than Jesus.
4. He turns back to Christ - contrasting Him with tradition and elemental spirits (**verse 9**)
- A. In Him you have the fullness of the Deity - in bodily form
- B. In Him you have been brought to fullness (**verse 10**)
- Rea C. So the fullness of God came in bodily form - Jesus, the Christ
- Rea D. We are brought to fullness having the presence of God in our lives... brought to what and who were created for - maturity, as human beings
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
1. The devil has doctrines of his own... be careful not to be “captured” by his ideas
 2. The television is a world of ideas... most of which are not in accord with the gospel
 3. Don’t get diverted into something good...
 -when you could be filled with God through Christ

III. Remember - Col 2:11-15

1. You have been spiritually circumcised (**verse 11**)
 -that part of your life has been put off
2. Buried with Him (**verse 12**) - Christ
 Raised with Him
- Rea A spiritual death, burial and resurrection with Christ - this is what it means to be “saved”
3. You were dead - God made you alive (**verse 13**)
- Rea -this is not the resurrection of Jesus - this is your resurrection
 -He cut off our sins, by forgiveness
4. God canceled the charge of sins from us (**verse 14**)
 -legally indebted
 -how? - by nailing it to the cross - Jesus paid it all
5. He disarmed the principalities and authorities (**verse 15**)
- Rea -Satanic
 -Mt. 25:41 - the devil and all his angels
 -Jesus publically won the victory over them through the cross
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
1. So, Satanic powers are real... but we have the victory - or rather Jesus won that victory
2. You died to your old life and were raised to walk in “newness of life”
3. It all becomes clear in the shadow of the work of Jesus
4. Christ
 -disarmed the devil and his forces
 -canceled the charge of our own sins that was against us - the wages of sin is death
 -raised us - resurrection - made alive - spiritually