



FOR PEOPLE ON THE GROW "Staying on Course" Colossians 2:8-15

No. 5030

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Having begun their spiritual journey, the Colossians needed encouragement to continue as they had started because factors had entered their lives that would take them off course.

I. A Word of Warning. v. 8

- A. Beware of hijackers.
- B. Recognize their methods.
 - 1. Diverting the attention.
 - 2. Perverting the gospel.
 - a. Teaching that is empty and deceptive.
 - b. Traditions that are man-made.
 - c. Thinking that is fundamentally "worldly."
 - 3. Subverting the Lord – "rather than on Christ."
- C. Resist their efforts.

II. A Word of Instruction. vv. 9-13

- A. Reality of Christ.
 - 1. In Him the fullness of deity.
 - 2. In bodily form.
 - a. Incarnation.
 - b. Crucifixion.
 - c. Glorification.
 - B. Relationship to Christ.
 - 1. In Him – "You have been given fullness."
 - a. He is Head.
 - b. You draw from Him.
 - 2. In Him – "You were also circumcised."
 - a. Analogy of circumcision.
 - b. Actuality of "Putting quite off the body of the flesh." - H.G.G. Moule
 - 3. With Him – "Having been buried."
 - a. Burial – termination of relationship.
 - b. Baptism – sign and seal of covenant and faith.
 - 4. With Him – "(You were) raised through your faith."
 - a. Faith in God who raised Christ.
 - b. Fellowship with Christ whom God raised.
 - 5. In Him – "He forgave us."
 - a. The code has been cancelled.
 - b. The crimes have been nailed to the cross.
 - e.g. Roman Titulus
 - c. The opposition has been defeated.
 - i. "Disarmed" – divested of glory, authority.
 - ii. "Public spectacle" – shown to be defeated.
- Note: God in Christ has done all this!!

III. A Word of Encouragement. vv. 14-15

- A. Don't get sidetracked.
 - 1. By supplements to Christ.
- B. Don't get hijacked.
 - 1. By those who diminish Christ.
- C. Don't get shortchanged.
 - 1. By settling for less than Christ.