

Destructive Philosophy Colossians 2:1-8

I. Genuine Concern - 2:1

1. Paul was aware of Satan's attacks
Combats God's truth with alternative philosophies
Gnosticism & Jewish legalism a constant threat
Greek philosophical systems
2. He had not been to these churches
No 1st hand knowledge of their grounding in God's truth
This letter to be shared with Laodicea – 4:16
Rev. 3:14-19 shows that the danger was real
3. His concern was intense, "great struggle"
Term means "to agonize" - a spiritual conflict
4. Concern prompted him to write this letter

II. Strong Defense – 2:2-3

1. Spirit of encouragement – 2
That they might be comforted - encouraged
Confidence in victory Christ provides - 1 Jn. 4:4
2. Spirit of unity - 2
Support & encouragement of the body
"Being knit together in love"
Strength for victory when we stand together
3. Spiritual Understanding – 2-3
"Riches of full assurance, understanding & knowledge e"
Best defense against error – knowing the truth
All treasures of wisdom & knowledge are in Christ

III. Nature of Error – 2:4

1. It is deceptive – 4
"That no one may delude you"
Satan's power is deceptive - 2Cor.11:13-15
He sprinkles a little error in with some truth
He sowed the tares among the wheat
Matt. 13:24-26
2. It is Enticing – 4
"With plausible arguments"
It has an attractive appeal – James 1:14
It seems to make good sense – Gen. 3:6
Deceptive ways are very enticing
Satan even tried to entice Jesus

IV. Stand Fast – 2:5-7

1. Paul rejoices in their stand – 5
He is "absent in body" "with you in spirit"
2. Their present stand – 5
"Your good order"
Military word meaning "disciplined"
"Firmness of your faith in Christ"
Strong relationship with Christ is our best protection
3. Paul's exhortation – 6-7
"As you received Christ, so walk in Him"
Living up to what we believe

"Rooted and built up in Him"

Faith firmly rooted in Truth of God

Continually growing in our faith

"Established in the faith"

Know what you believe

"Abounding in thanksgiving"

Overflowing with thankfulness to the Lord

V. Emptiness of Human Philosophy - 8

1. "Beware" a clear & present danger – 8
"See to it" be on guard
You can be taken "captive"
2. Human philosophy
It is "vain" empty, devoid of truth
note Ecclesiastes
It is "deceitful" – based upon lies
"According to human tradition"
What man thinks
"According to elemental spirits of the world"
Term speaks of what is basic to the world's system
3. Not according to Christ
Christ is the full revelation of all that God is
He is truth as is all of God's revelation
Human thinking must be measured in the light of Christ - 2 Corinthians 10:5
God's Word must be our standard for truth