

COLOSSIANS PART 5 - THE ROOTS OF SPIRITUAL DECEPTION

Colossians chapter 2, select passages (2:1, 2:4, 2:8, 2:18)

Tuesday Night Bible Study, February 14, 2012

PASSAGE

For I want you to know what a great conflict I have for you and those in Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh, 2 that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. 4 **Now this I say lest anyone should deceive you with persuasive words.** 5 For though I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ. 6 As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, 7 rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. 8 **Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit,** according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. 9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; 10 and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power. 11 In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, 12 buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. 13 And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, 14 having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. 15 Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it. 16 So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, 17 which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ. 18 **Let no one cheat you of your reward,** taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, 19 and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase that is from God. 20 Therefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations — 21 "Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle," 22 which all concern things which perish with the using — according to the commandments and doctrines of men? 23 These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.

--COLOSSIANS PRESENTS A CONTRAST BETWEEN LIGHT AND DARKNESS:

--**Colossians 1:13:** "He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love..."

--although we have been delivered from the power of darkness through Christ, there is an ever present danger of spiritual deception throughout the pilgrimage of this life:

--**Colossians 2:1:** "For I want you to know what a great conflict I have for you..."

--**Colossians 2:4:** "Now this I say lest anyone should deceive you with persuasive words..."

--**Colossians 2:8:** "Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit..."

--**Colossians 2:18:** "Let no one cheat you of your reward..."

--THE ROOTS OF SPIRITUAL DECEPTION:

--a better understanding of the danger of spiritual deception can be gained by tracing it back to it's roots

--Jesus called Satan "the father of lies" (**John 8:44**)

--there are countless false teachers throughout the world that propagate Satan's lies

--the apostle Paul called a false teacher "a son of the devil" who "perverts the straight way of the Lord." (**Acts 13:10**)

--Jesus called Satan the "father" of false teachers: [John 8:37-47](#)

--the parable of the tares: [Matthew 13:36-43](#)

--[2 Peter 2:1-2](#)

--Satan's campaign of deception began with his own self-deception when he was the highest ranking angel in heaven. Ezekiel 28:1-19 compares the fall of Satan to the fall of the ancient King of Tyre.

--side note: the "prophetic perfect" verb tense... much of the result of Satan's fall described in Ezekiel 28:11-19 appears to refer to events in the future (in particular his defeat at the end of the Great Tribulation) yet it is written in the past tense, a grammatical structure called "prophetic perfect". Isaiah 53 is a familiar passage that utilizes the prophetic perfect. In his work *Figures of Speech Used in the Bible*, E. W. Bullinger wrote that the past is used rather than the future tense to emphasize the certainty of an event: *The past tense is used instead of the future tense when the speaker views the action as being as good as done. This is very common in the Divine prophetic utterances where, though the sense is literally future, it is regarded and spoken of as though it were already accomplished in the Divine purpose and determination. The figure is to show the absolute certainty of the things spoken of.*

--the fall of the ancient King of Tyre: [Ezekiel 28:1-10](#)

--because Tyre was an important seaport in the ancient world, the "prince of Tyre" gained much wealth and power.

--in time his heart was filled with pride and he proclaimed himself to be a god and therefore God brought judgment against him, following a similar pattern seen in Satan's life.

--the fall of Satan: [Ezekiel 28:11-19](#)

--the human king of Tyre is referred to as the "prince of Tyre" and Satan is referred to as the "king of Tyre."

--the human king ruled under the influence of Satan, and therefore, in a spiritual sense, was a prince under the control of Satan the king.

--before his fall, Satan was "the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty." ([Ezekiel 28:12](#))

--it appears that after Satan's fall he had access to both Eden and heaven because he already had access to both places before he fell, opposed to the idea that Satan was in Eden only because of his fall. ([Ezekiel 28:13](#))

--interesting conclusion drawn by Arnold Fruchtenbaum: *On the sixth day of creation, God created man and gave him the authority over the earth which had been removed from Satan. But when man fell, Satan usurped authority over the earth... in his futile plan to take the place of God.* (Arnold Fruchtenbaum, *The Footsteps of the Messiah*)

--before his fall Satan was "the anointed cherub who covers... on the holy mountain of God..."

([Ezekiel 28:14](#))

--"cherubs" were the highest ranking angels, followed by "seraphim" and then "angels".

--*The Hebrew for 'covers' means 'the covering roof.'* He was a canopy over the Throne of God. In chapter one of Ezekiel, while other cherubim were underneath the Throne and were carrying the Throne, this particular cherub was a canopy over the Throne of God. This one was the most prominent cherub of them all. (Arnold Fruchtenbaum, *The Footsteps of the Messiah*)

--Satan was "perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you." ([Ezekiel 28:15](#))

--[Isaiah 14:12-15](#) also describes Satan's fall

--the angels that fell with Satan...

--[Revelation 12:3-4](#) seems to indicate, in figurative language, that one third of the angels in heaven fell with Satan.

--[2 Peter 2:4](#)

--[Jude 6](#)

SATAN'S DECEPTION OF ADAM AND EVE: [Genesis 2:8-3:13](#)

--God said...

"of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it **you shall surely die.**" ([Genesis 2:17](#))

--Satan said...

"Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'? ... **You will not surely die.** For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ([Genesis 3:1-5](#))

--Eve said...

"The Serpent **deceived** me..." ([Genesis 3:13](#))

--the apostle Paul's warning echos what happened to Adam and Eve...

"Now this I say lest anyone should **deceive you with persuasive words.**" ([Colossians 2:4](#))

--Satan's tactic...

--Satan first questioned Scripture and then outright denied Scripture. Satan promised a lie... after he himself believed a lie and the exact opposite happened, then Adam and Eve believed his lie and the exact opposite happened.

--truly Satan only comes to "steal, kill, and destroy!" ([John 10:10](#))

--[Romans 5:15-16](#):

"For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many.

SATAN'S DECEPTION OF JESUS: [Matthew 4:1-11](#)

--Jesus replied to all three of Satan's lies the same way... "It is written... It is written... It is written..."

--after Jesus quoted Scripture, Satan proceeded to quote Scripture, but he misquoted Scripture!

--many of Satan's temptations can be categorized as the easy way out...

--Satan tempted Jesus to gain popularity and become king by performing a public stunt rather than the path of the cross... [Matthew 4:5-6](#)

--[Mark 8:34-38](#), [Mathew 7:13-14](#)

--in a sense, Satan's motive behind tempting us is to get us to worship him instead of God!

--Satan tried to get Jesus to worship him: [Matthew 4:9](#)

--in an sense, all sin can be reduced to an indirect means of worshiping Satan! Anything not of faith is sin. ([Romans 14:23](#))

--[Romans 1:15](#) talks about how fallen mankind in his natural state "worships and serves the creature rather than the Creator."

THE CENTRALITY OF GOD THE FATHER AND CHRIST

--[Colossians 2:2b-3](#): "...the father and of Christ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."

--[Colossians 2:8b](#): "Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to "the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not **according to Christ.**"

****Christ is not just a sage who taught truths, opposed to Satan who teaches lies, but Christ Himself is truth! The universe is Christ-centered!**

--that is why Christ is the object of Satan's greatest wrath, as seen in Daniel's figurative vision where Christ is spoken of as the Child and Israel as a mother giving birth to the Child – bringing Christ into the world – with Satan, as a dragon, trying to kill the mother and child: **Revelation 12:3-5**

--a key characteristic of truth is that it somehow points to Christ or is somehow related to Him which in turn leads to worshiping Him.

--truths about how to live were modeled by Christ

--**1 Peter 2:21**: “Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His step.”

--**1 John 3:16, 1 John 2:6, Philippians 2:5, Ephesians 5:2, 1 Corinthians 11:1, Romans 8:28-30**

--Christ is “the Word” of God... **John 1:1-5**

--Christ is before all things and all things were made through Him and for Him...

Colossians 1:16-18, John 1:10-13

--Christ-centered preaching in the New Testament...

--**Acts 8:4-13, Acts 8:26-40, Acts 4:1-4, Luke 24:46-49, Philippians 1:12-18, 1 Corinthians 2:1-5**

--preaching Christ from the Old Testament...

--**Luke 24:25-27, Luke 5:39-40, Acts 26:22-23**

--Christ is the middle of world history and the future of world history! History leads to the whole world falling down at His feet! Christ stands between heaven and hell on the seat of judgement.

--**Philippians 2:9-11, Romans 14:10, Revelation 19:11-16**

HUMILITY

--because of the preeminence of Christ, one hallmark of being rooted in truth is humility...

--the apostle Paul exemplified this:

--**John 3:30**: “He must increase but I must decrease.”

--**Galatians 6:14, Colossians 3:2-4**

--Colossians speaks of false teachers as not having true humility:

--**Colossians 2:18-19a**: “Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in **false humility** and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, **vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind**, and **not holding fast to the Head...**”

--”the Head...” again, emphasizing the centrality of Christ.

TRUTH IS SPIRITUAL FOOD

--truth from God isn't just philosophical words on paper, but it is alive – it is spiritual food which brings about spiritual growth!

--**Colossians 2:19b**... we need to stay connected to “the Head [*Christ*], from whom all the body [*the body of Christ*], **nourished and knit together** by joints and ligaments, **grows** with the increase that is from God.”

--**1 Peter 2:2**: “desire the pure milk of the word [*of God*], that you may grow thereby...”

--**2 Peter 3:18**: "...grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

--**Hebrews 4:12**: "For the word of God is living and powerful..."

--**John 6:35-36**: Jesus said, "I am **the bread of life**. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst..."

--again, Christ is the center...the core...the heart...of truth!

--**John 6:68-69**: "But Simon Peter answered Him, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.'"

--**Ephesians 4:11-16**

--SATAN'S CONTINUING CAMPAIGN OF DECEPTION...

--after Satan deceived himself and one third of the angels, he went on to deceive Adam and Eve, and he continues to try and deceive the entire world; Satan even tried to deceive Jesus when He walked on the earth! And therefore Paul repeatedly warns about Satan's deception throughout his epistles, including Colossians.... "Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power." (Colossians 2:8-10)