

Colossians 2:8-15

“Watch out for deceptive teaching”

At that time in Colossae, dissident views and Jewish traditions influenced their culture and people were being taught heretical views about Christianity. Thus, Paul explains how such teaching has no foundation and reminds the Colossians who Christ is and what happens when they believe in Christ.

1. Reading: Let’s read the Bible.

Let’s read Colossians 1:15-23 and mark the passage as you read it.

[?] ... for a question or doubt.

[!] ... for a good impression. i.e. “I like what this verse says.”

*Talk about the verses you marked. What did you have a question about or why did you like a particular verse?

Colossians 2:8-15

“8 See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. 9 For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, 10 and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. 11 In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, 12 having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. 13 And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, 14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. 15 He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.”

2. Focus: Let’s discuss the focus

Contents: What did you find written here? Make a summary of the contents and express in your own words.

Focus: What is the focus of the selected passage? Summarize. (the answers may vary)

3. Study: Using the questions as hints, let`s study the Bible together.

1. (v. 8) What is wrong with being captured by philosophy and empty deceit?

*Philosophy and empty deceit point to the dissident views in Colossae. Paul says, “Let no one deceive you with empty words” in Ephesians 5:6.

2. (v. 8) What would be the equivalent of “philosophy and empty deceit” in today`s world?

3. (v.9) Both Christians and non-Christians tend to seek satisfaction in things outside of Christ. If your friends are in this situation, how can you talk to them?

4. (verses 12-14) When Christians are transformed by baptism and faith in Jesus, what is the difference in their lives before and after?

5. (verse 14) The “record of debt” is about the sin that was forgiven when a Christian believed. For Christians, do you think there are sins that are not yet forgiven? If you are non-believer, do you want your sin to be forgiven?

6. In verse 15 says, “...put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.” “Them” in this verse refers to Satan and deceitful things that can bind us. This phrase means that Christ controls them and holds them captive. Is there anything that binds you or the people around you?

4. Application: How does this apply to our lives?

Share freely new things you have realized or learned from this Bible study.