

Captive to Christ

Colossians 2:8

Captive to Christ

Colossians 2:8

Two kinds of spiritual captivity and God's single cure for both

I. Spiritual Imprisonment

“Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.” (1 Peter 5:8)

Every human being is **spiritually enslaved to Satan** and in need of God to free them from spiritual captivity. How?

*God sent His Son to do God's work
of freeing His people from sin.*

The issue here is that you stand **guilty** before God, **separated** from life with God, and **spiritually dead** towards God due to your unforgiven sins against God.

*This brings us to our **second kind** of spiritual captivity:*

II. Spiritual Impovershment

Spiritual poverty happens to Christians when we fail to seek our treasure in Christ alone, *“in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”*

In our **context**, as Paul intensely warns the Colossian Christians, “...the word [captive] is used figuratively of carrying someone away from the truth into the slavery of error.” *(Peter O’Brien, emphasis mine)*

All it takes in any given moment is for you to move from **desiring to worship and please the Lord** to **desiring something other than or more than the Lord**, and obeying what Paul calls your *lusts of deceit* in **Ephesians 4:22**.

Philosophy is literally “love of wisdom,” but it came to be used as a **general title for various** systems of thought, for different approaches to life, and for various religious ideas.

If it dealt with God, the world, and living life, it came under the title of *philosophy*.

Paul is concerned about the philosophy which is **not according to Christ**—that is the bottom line.

“Empty deception” identifies the problem with the philosophical system that Paul has in mind.

“Empty deception” can also be rendered “hollow pretense” or even “futile trickery.”

Whatever leads you away from Christ impoverishes you!

“This is a philosophy that was conceived in the mind of man and did not come by means of divine revelation. It may well be compatible with and confirm human traditions and make sense when looked at from a this-worldly perspective, but it has nothing in it of God.” *(Sam Storms)*

What springs from God leads back to God.

If what you believe does not lead you to God,
it did not come from God.

III. In Christ

*“Look carefully then how you walk.... so walk in Christ, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.”
(Eph. 5:15; Col. 2:6-7)*

GRACE CHURCH
WILLIAMSBURG