

Colossians 2:8-15

Christ In His Fullness:
The Antidote To Error

Either Christ or The Stoichia

Colossians 2:8 See to it that no one takes you captive through (the) philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the **elementary principles** of the world, rather than according to Christ.

What was the philosophy?

1. "Stoichia" = spirit beings
2. "Embateuone" = entered the things he had seen...
3. "Worship of angels" = invoking of angels for protection against the stoichia

What Was The Colossian Heresy?

"It appears that the practice of invoking angels at Colossae does not have as much to do with matters of ultimate spiritual significance as it does with the issues of day to day life. As with the veneration of angels in Judaism of magic and incantations, the Colossians practice involved a diminution of one's relationship to Yahweh (and now Christ) in favor of a manipulative relationship with His angels....The greater implication is with Christology where it appears that Christ is either neglected in favor of calling upon angels or is regarded on the same level as the angels..." (Arnold, *The Colossian Syncretism*, 102).

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...and not according to Christ.

Lesson: The knowledge we base our lives on is either from the stoichia or from Christ!

Jesus is God

Colossians 2:9-10 For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority.

1. Theotes not theiotes = "divine" not "divine quality"
2. Pleroma – pepleromenoi = "fullness"
3. God's grace and power are bestowed on those "in Christ"
4. Head = Jesus rules over all the stoichia – they answer to Him!

Excursus: Hypostatic Union

Philippians 2:5-8 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Jesus did not divest Himself of divine attributes, but of the prerogative to always use them!

Excursus: Hypostatic Union

Human

Matthew 8:24 ...Jesus Himself was asleep.

Matthew 24:36 But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.

Divine

Matthew 8:27 ... even the winds and the sea obey Him?

John 21:17 "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You."

Excursus: Hypostatic Union

- Cf. Gundry (Matthew, 492): "Theologically, we may say that just as Jesus did not exercise his omnipotence except to further the kingdom (cf. his refusal to make stones into bread), so he did not exercise his omniscience except to further the kingdom." Again, "What Jesus could have done because he was divine did not predetermine what he did do as also a man. The incarnation did not destroy divine potencies, but it did limit actualities."

Blomberg, Craig: Matthew. electronic ed. Nashville : Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2001, c1992 (Logos Library System; The New American Commentary 22)

The Circumcision Made Without Hands

Colossians 2:11-12 ...and in Him you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ; having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were raised up with Him through the faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

1. Genesis 1:27 Mankind = Male + Female
2. Genesis 3:15 Woman will have a seed...
3. Seed promise remembered by "cutting of covenant" (Genesis 17:7-11) (Males are cut)
4. Circumcision involves "cutting the heart" Jer. 4:4

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- “Made with hands” = constructed by man Lev 26:1; Acts 7:48; 17:24
- “Made without hands” = constructed by God Eph 2:11; Hebrews 9:11 (Romans 2:28-29)

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Two Views:

1. Removal of flesh = “putting off old nature” Col 3:9
Baptism = Circumcision
2. Removal of flesh = Christ’s death “The Seed was cut”
(1st Corinthians 15:3-4)

The Need For Regeneration

Colossians 2:13 When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions...

Jeremiah 4:4 Circumcise yourselves to the LORD and remove the foreskins of your heart.

Ezekiel 36:26 Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone...

1 Corinthians 12:3b ...and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.

Putting Our Theology Together

Romans 2:28-29 For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God.

Replacement Theologians: Israel is spiritual not physical
Romans 11:25-28 For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery – so that you will not be wise in your own estimation – that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in; and so all Israel will be saved...from the standpoint of the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but from the standpoint of God's choice they are beloved for the sake of the fathers

Putting Our Theology Together


