

Col. 2:8-12, 16-23

INTRODUCTION. Definition of philosophy:

1. Philosophy only here in the New Testament. *Saving knowledge*
2. Philosophy means literally LOVE OF WISDOM. Love of learning. May mean a way of life. Example:
 1. The philosophy of the thieves: What is your should be mine and I am going to get ^{it} one way or another. Luke 10:30
 2. The philosophy of the priest and the Levite: What is mine should be mine and I am going to keep it. Luke 10:30,32
 3. The philosophy of the (good) Samaritan: What is mine should be yours and I am going to divide with you. Luke 10:33-35
 4. The philosophers (Epicureans & Stoics) of Athens Acts 17:18 Their philosophy:
 - (1) The Epicureans held that the gods were careless about human affairs, and that a man's best course in life was to get as much pleasure out of life as possible. PLEASURE was their chief god.
 - (2) The rule of life for the Stoics was that ^{of} fatalism. They were believers in a sort of pantheism: that the world was God. Since everything was governed by fate, God himself was subject to it.
3. Paul does not condemn all philosophy here.
 1. Philosophy had a good mean originally: The love of wisdom. Indicating the highest intellect and virtue.
 2. Philosophy used here in the sense of vain speculation, deceit.
4. Present day philosophies are two: (TRUE and FALSE)
 1. Loosed from the moorings (the teachings of God's Word) that have held life together many are adrift on the sea being tossed from wave to wave of mere meaningless emotion. They have have thrown overboard the chart, the compass, the steering wheel (the Bible) and even the consciousness of destination. They are free from everything that would restrain in anyway. They do not want a cross...they want freedom.
 2. Still others are concerned about a way of life that is to be worked out in living fellowship with Christ. To these God's law is not dead precepts to be worked for duty's sake only...but is a living fellowship to be worked out for love's sake. Their philosophy is to have the mind of Christ.
5. What are the ways of philosophy?
 1. Philosophies are simply ways of thinking. Keep thy heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life. Proverbs 4:23
 2. The aim of philosophy is to govern the thoughts of man and in this way to control man.

THE TWO PHILOSOPHIES OF THE COLOSSIANS

2:8

1. A FALSE PHILOSOPHY Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit. Col. This false philosophy to come through false teachers. False teachers would come from two sources:
 1. From outside the church. 1 John 4:1
 2. From within the church. Acts 20:29,30 (Both kinds are destructive)
 3. The danger of false teachers so great that all eight writers of the New Testament gave warnings concerning them.
2. TWO MARKS OF THIS SYSTEM OF FALSE PHILOSOPHY
 1. It was purely traditional. "After the tradition of men." Col. 2:8
 2. It was false because it was after the world and not after Christ. It would lead men back to the rudiments (elements) of the world. Col. 2:8 NOTE: Any religious system which sets Christ aside and proposes to lead men to God some other way than through him is after all "A VAIN deceit." for Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: No man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 14:6. The world by wisdom knew not God. 1 Cor. 1:21

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... the philosophy of the priest and the levites: What is mine should be mine and I am going to keep it. Luke 10:30-32

... the philosophy of the (good) Samaritan: What is mine should be yours and I am going to share it with you. Luke 10:33-35

... the philosophers (Brahmins & Doctors) of Athens Acts 17:18 Their philosophy: (1) The Samaritan held that the gods were careles about human affairs, and that a man's best course in life was to get as much pleasure out of life as possible. Luke 17:35 (2) The wife of life for the Stoics was that of a Stoic. They were believers in a sort of fatalism: that the world was God. Since everything was governed by fate, you should be content to let it be.

... philosophy was a good man originally: The love of wisdom. Intellectual and virtuous.

... philosophy was here in the sense of vain speculation, selfish.

... (WISDOM and FAITH) ...

... the teachings of Jesus (that have held life's religion) ... they have thrown everything but the core ... they were selfish and even the consciousness of resignation. They are free from everything that would restrain in anyway. They do not want a cross... they want freedom.

... about a way of life that is to be worked out in living fellowship with Christ. In Jesus' law is not just freedom to be worked out for Jesus' sake only... but in a living fellowship to be worked out for Jesus' sake. Their obligation is to have the mind of Christ.

... the way of philosophy? ...

... the way of thinking. Keep your heart with all diligence for out of it are the issues of life. Proverbs 4:23

... the fountain of man and in this way to control man.

... THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE GREEK

... THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE GREEK ...

... From outside the church. Luke 11:17

... The Pharisees' false teaching to great that all eight virtues of the New Testament are contained in them.

... TWO KINDS OF THE SYSTEM OF FALSE PHILOSOPHY

... "After the tradition of men." Gal. 1:10

... "It was partly traditional." "After the tradition of men." Gal. 1:10

... "It was false because it was alien to the world and not after Christ. It would lead us back to the traditions (superstitions) of the world." Gal. 1:10

... which was Christ's ...

... and proposed to lead me to yet some other way than through him is also all in vain. "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 14:6

... Jesus said: "I am the Father, but by me." John 14:6

WARNINGS

WARNINGS REGARDING DANGEROUS PHILOSOPHIES. Auditorium class at Dearborn Walley May 3, 1964

Col. 2:8-12; 16-23

THE TWO PHILOSOPHIES OF THE COLOSSIANS, Continued

3. TWO MARKS OF THE TRUE PHILOSOPHY

1. For in him (Christ) dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. Col. 2:9

1. Two or three separate gods are not to be found. It is God who rules in heaven, and pleads with our spirits, and dwells fully in Christ.

2. To see and know Christ is to see and know God. John 14:7-9

2:10

2. And ye are complete in him (Christ) which is the head of all principality and powers. Col.

1. Not half-way complete in Christ, but fully complete in him.

2. We require pardon for sin; strength for trouble; strength for temptation; strength for toil. We require light in darkness; all of this is to be found in Christ and cannot be found in any other place.

3. The secret of this true, successful philosophy, is to be "in Christ," "rooted" as the tree being rooted in the soil derives nourishment therefrom, and we are "built up in him" as the temple stands firm on a solid foundation.

4. To be in Christ is to be in union with Christ. We can obtain nothing from Christ until we are in him. 1 John 5:20

THE TROUBLE TODAY

1. Men still are inclined to listen to those who by teaching falsely would come between them and Christ. The effort to glorify Christianity for this present age. We may corrupt its simplicity ETC.

2. As men needed Christ then so we need Christ today.

1. Christ's way is right and the way of all men is wrong. As it was then so it is today :

(1) Christ's truth is the only way to freedom today. John 8:32

(2) As it was then, so today the gospel is still God's only power to save. Rom. 1:16

(3) As it was then so today Christ is the head of that great spiritual body, the church.

Ephesians 1:22, 23 Col. 1:18

(4) I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. 1 Cor. 1:19

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... in him (Christ), swollen all the fullness of the goodness of the Father...
 ... two or three separate parts are not to be found. It is one who takes in heaven, and
 ... please with our spirits, and dwells fully in them.
 ... To see and know Christ is to see and know God. John 14:9-10

... and we are complete in him (Christ), which is the lack of all individuality and powers...
 ... but half-way complete in Christ, but fully complete in him.
 ... We require power for this; strength for growth; strength for expansion; strength
 ... for life. We require life in weakness: all of this is to be found in Christ and
 ... as found in any other place.
 ... The secret of this true, successful philosophy, is to be "in Christ," "rested" as
 ... the tree being rooted in the soil, and its fruit being the fruit of the soil. We are
 ... as the people stand (in a solid foundation).
 ... To be in Christ is to be united with Christ. We can obtain nothing from Christ until
 ... we are in him. 1 John 2:20

THE TRUTH TODAY

... are still inclined to listen to those who by teaching falsely would come between them
 ... and Christ, the effect of which is to destroy the unity of the Church. We are carrying its
 ... stability etc.

... As we need Christ, then we need Christ today.

... Christ's way is right and the way of all men is wrong. As it was then so it is today:
 (1) Christ's way is the only way to freedom today. John 8:32
 (2) As it was then, so today the gospel is still "the only power to save." 1:10
 (3) As it was then so today Christ is the head of that great spiritual body, the church.
 Ephesians 1:22, 23; Col. 1:18

... I will receive the wisdom of the wise, and bring to nothing the understanding of
 ... the prudent. 1 Cor. 1:19

NOTES FOR LESSON SUNDAY, MAY 3, 1964

1. Carl Marx was born in the year 1818
2. Jenny, Marx's wife and described by him as "faithful in all things" died in 1882
3. Marx died one year later: 1883
4. Marx's philosophy of life:
 1. He asked nothing of life that he was not prepared to give.
 2. He lived convictions at the cost of pride, fame, wealth, power and family.
5. The lesson is obvious:
 1. Marx and his views are not going to be driven from the stage of history by any lesser dedication and sacrifice
6. Where we are today:
 1. We are a little like the motorist caught in the traffic jam: We assume that all we have to do is to honk our horn loudly enough, expecting that some one is quite free to jump out of our way, if he chooses to do so.
7. In 1904 a man, Lenin I think it was, preached an infamous sermon that produced 17 converts
 1. By 1917 this 17 had grown to be 40,000
 2. By 1933 this 40,000 had swollen into the millions.
 3. By 1955 these millions had had grown to be nearly 900,000,000 (Million)
8. OUR EFFORTS TODAY:
 1. The other day I read that it takes the efforts of 31 church members to win just one soul to Christ. One of these Wednesday nights we are going to have a lesson in the auditorium class on THESE RESPECTABLE SINS OF OURS.

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1. The lesson is obvious:
 2. Let's see his views are not going to be driven from the state of Michigan by any
 lesser dedication and sacrifice.

3. There we are today:
 4. We are a little like the motorist caught in the traffic jam: We stand fast all we
 have to do is to work our horn loudly enough - expounding that some one is out there
 to jump out of our way, if he chooses to do so.

5. In 1901 - man, I think I was, preached an infamous sermon that produced 10 converts.
 6. By 1911 this had grown to be 10,000.
 7. By 1922 this 10,000 had swollen into the millions.
 8. By 1932 these millions had grown to be nearly 20,000,000 (Million).

9. OUR FUTURE TODAY:
 10. The other day I read that it takes the efforts of 11 church members to win just
 one soul to Christ. One of these Wednesday nights we are going to have a lesson
 in the auditorium class on THESE RESISTABLE SINS OF OURS.