

Introduction:

Today we will conclude our look at *Who Christ Is and What He Has Accomplished*.

Things we will look at in this lesson: A Warning About False Teaching.

A Warning About False Teaching:

01. What is practical Christian living the natural outcome of?

02. What did Paul fear the church in Colossae would be deceived and taken captive by?

03. What do philosophical perspectives, novel doctrines, and culturally popular beliefs hide?

04. According to Colossians 2:9 where does the entire fullness of God's nature dwell?

05. What does Paul say Christ is the head over in Colossians 2:10?

06. According to Colossians 2:12 what were we raised in Christ through?

07. According to Colossians 2:13 what did Christ do when we were dead in trespasses?

08. What happened to the forces of evil through Christ's victory on the Cross?

09. What is legalism the religion of?

10. What did Jesus Christ fulfill?

11. What does an ascetic practice?

12. What is mysticism the pursuit of?

13. What did Paul claim these mystical experiences led to?

Article 1) Paul's Warning About Deceptive Philosophies:

"Be careful that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit based on human tradition, based on the elements of the world, rather than Christ." —**Colossians 2:8**

Paul warns us to be on guard against all philosophies, religions and traditions that emphasize humans functioning independently from God and his written revelation, as found in the Bible. Today, one of the greatest philosophical threats to true Bible-based Christianity is "secular humanism." (Humanism is a thought system based on the values, characteristics and behaviors that are believed to be best in human beings rather than any supernatural authority.)

Article 1) continued...

This has become the underlying philosophy (i.e., idea, worldview, belief, value system, way of life) and the accepted religion in most of secular (i.e., worldly, non-spiritual) education, government and society in general. It is also the established viewpoint of most of the news and entertainment media throughout the world.

(1) What does the philosophy of humanism teach?

(a) It teaches that humanity, the universe and all that exists consist only of matter and energy shaped into their present form by natural physical forces and impersonal chance.

(b) It teaches that humans have not been created by a personal God, but are the product of a random process of evolution (the theoretical process that proposes how all species develop from earlier and less complex forms of life as a result of changes in genetic material).

(c) It rejects belief in a personal, all-powerful and infinite God (i.e., without beginning or end) and denies that the Bible is God's inspired revelation to the human race.

(d) It claims that knowledge does not exist apart from human discovery and that human reason determines correct ethics (i.e., "moral" principles, values, standards) of society. This makes human beings the highest authority.

(e) It seeks to modify or improve human behavior through education, economic policies, organization, redistribution of resources, modern psychology or human wisdom.

(f) It teaches that moral standards are not absolute (i.e., true and valid for all people, in all situations for all time) but instead are relative (i.e., dependent on the person's own beliefs and circumstances). Standards of behavior are determined by what makes people happy, brings them pleasure or seems good for society according to the goals set by its leaders. As a result, Biblical values and morality (i.e., standards of right and wrong, truth and falsehood) are rejected.

(g) It considers human self-fulfillment, satisfaction and pleasure to be the highest good in life.

(h) It maintains that people should learn to cope with death and the difficulties in life without belief in or dependence on God.

Article 1) concluded...

(2) The philosophy of humanism began with Satan and is an expression of Satan's lie that humans can be like God (Genesis 3:5). The Bible identifies humanists as those who have "exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served what has been created instead of the Creator" (Romans 1:25).

(3) All Christian leaders, pastors and parents must do their absolute best to protect their sons, daughters and others under their care from humanist doctrine. In doing so, they must expose the errors of humanism and instill in their children a godly contempt (i.e., hatred, disgust) for its destructive influence. At the same time, they must instruct their children clearly in the truth of God's revelation as found in the Bible (Romans 1:20–32; 2 Corinthians 10:4–5; 2 Timothy 3:1–10; Jude 1:4–20; 1 Corinthians 1:20; 2 Peter 2:19).