

Jesus Christ, The Solution to Your Problems

Colossians 2:8-9

Colossians 2:6

6 **Therefore, just as you have received the Christ, Jesus the Lord,** and this by faith ***so continue to walk in Him,*** by faith

7 **having been firmly rooted** *in the past* by receiving Him by faith as your Savior ***and now in the present being built up in Him*** by increasing in the Knowledge of JESUS CHRIST **and established/secure in your faith,** we live by faith in HS **just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.**

8 **See to it** be constantly alert **that no one takes you captive through philosophy** love of human wisdom and knowledge; *being wise they became fools*

A good word to describe what is being stated in 'philosophy' is the word **syncretism** which is the union or attempted fusion of different religious, cultures or philosophies... like 'Chrislam' trying to make a union of acceptance of Christianity as taught from the bible with Islamic teaching from the Koran.

Or taking modern music trends and making a union of them with Christian music. Attempting to fuse together human philosophy with Christian teaching. And remember from Colossians 2:4 this is accomplished with 'persuasive argument.'

A person of high IQ or charismatic rhetoric can make these unions sound so good and so appealing. Not only are we losing sound teaching from the pulpit we are also losing sound Christian Worship thru Music.

and empty deception,

Empty of biblical truth, that which seduces Christians away from being taught the Word of God.

We have seen the **Danger of False Teaching** and entertainment, in the warning: **be alert**

Next **Description of False Teaching according to the tradition of men,**

You have to be careful with this Greek word; *tradition*. It refers “to deliver in teaching” “A **tradition, doctrine or injunction** delivered or communicated from one to another”. The reason you have to be careful is that this may from divine or human sources.

You have to pay special attention to context.

For example, we have studied 2 Thessalonians 2:15

15 **So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught, we could correctly translate this hold to the doctrines which you were taught whether by word of mouth or by letter from us.**

While here you can see the same motif as we have in Colossians 2:8 **be aware, be on guard**. While here **stand firm** you do not know how easy it is to be taken captive by **false teaching**.

Another passage we have studied in 2 Thessalonians 3:6

6 **Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from every brother fellow believer who leads an unruly life and not according to the tradition –the teaching- which you received from us.**

Here we studied the very controversial doctrine. ‘Do you have the Courage to love JESUS CHRIST’? Not love the world, and not love every believer but do you have the courage to love JESUS CHRIST?

But this word can also be used of ‘traditions’ ‘teachings’ ‘doctrines’ handed down by man.

Galatians 1:14

14 **and I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries among my countrymen, being more extremely zealous for my ancestral traditions.**

Here context makes it clear which is being referred to: ***of God*** or ***of man***, here **of man**. One of the problems of the ‘Messianic Jews’ movement is their strong desire to hold on to the Old Testament, Jewish traditions rather than JESUS CHRIST.

As we have it here in Colossians 2:8

8 **See to it** beware, be on guard **that no one takes you captive through philosophy** love of Wisdom and Knowledge of man **and empty deception**, that seduces you away from Christ **according to the tradition of men**,

Next, we have a second source and **The Content of False Teaching.**

according to the elementary principles of the world,

Again, we have to be careful with the phrase *elementary principles* for again this is used as we have it here... **of the world.** But this phrase also refers to elementary teachings of the Word of God. Hebrews 5:12

12 **For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food.**

There are basic, **elementary doctrines** that every believer needs to be taught and never forget. It is the correct understanding of these **elementary doctrines** that will guide the believer in his continual growth in the Word of God and will protect him/her from being lured away by **false teaching.**

These elementary doctrines range from correct understanding of the Gospel, Grace, Faith, Love, Hope and A Good Understanding of What Constitutes Works.

I am in no hurry to rush by what is being taught in these verses, for I consider them fundamental to your spiritual life.

Therefore, let us at least read through Hebrews 6:1-8.

- 1 **Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ**, Now, this phrase might offend some, but if you understand and truly grasp who JESUS CHRIST is and what He did on the cross and resurrection and ascension, and what He is doing now, this will guide you and protect you in your Christian journey.
let us press on studying the Word of God **to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God**, these are correctly understood in basic teaching
- 2 **of instruction about legalism washings and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment.**
- 3 **And this we will do, if God permits.**
- 4 **For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit**, These people are saved eternally.

5 **and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, millenium..**

6 **and then have fallen away**, This is what our correct study in Colossians 2 is all about, be on guard that you do not fall away from truth **it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame.** they have moved from Grace to works as the Plan of God

7 **For ground that drinks the rain which often falls on it and brings forth vegetation useful to those for whose sake it is also tilled, receives a blessing from God;**

8 **but if it yields thorns and thistles, it is worthless and close to being cursed, and it ends up being burned.**

Colossians 2:8

8 **See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy love of human wisdom **and empty deception**, luring you away from truth **according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, The Truth lacking in False Teaching rather than according to Christ.****

When you combine what we learned in verse 4

I say this so that no one will delude deceive you, seduce you **you with persuasive argument.**

You might recall we spent a great deal of time on this phrase. **with persuasive argument** and I think it worthwhile to go over some of these translations:

- **BEGUILE YOU with enticing words**
 - **DECEIVE YOU with fine-sounding arguments**
 - **DECEIVE YOU with well-crafted arguments**
 - **DELUDE YOU with plausible arguments**
 - **DECEIVE YOU by smooth rhetoric**
 - **DELUDE YOU by persuasive speech**
 - **MISLEAD YOU with nice-sounding rhetoric**
 - **DECEIVE YOU through arguments that sound reasonable**
 - **LEAD YOU ASTRAY by false reasoning in the sphere of specious discourse**

In spite of Paul's repeated warnings, Church history is riddled with deceptive lies that have seduced people away from the person and work of JESUS CHRIST.

We will not even enter into the multitude of false teachings and traditions of man of the Roman Catholic Church, which goes from pure Idolatry to salvation by works and very little bible teaching.

Calvinism

Satan got his false teaching in right at the beginning of the Reformation and it still seduces multitudes away from JESUS CHRIST.

The first clue is the title—**Calvinism**... of Calvin; yet we just read in Colossians 2:8 **philosophy** –love of man’s wisdom; then **according to the tradition of men** yet multitudes are seduced away from the Truth by Calvinism. Pay close attention to the last phrase of verse 8: **rather than according to Christ.**

Basically, Calvinism praise God not JESUS CHRIST. They are so afraid of offending the Sovereignty of God that they blaspheme the person and work of JESUS CHRIST. In so doing, they also blaspheme God the Father by declaring that God chooses who will be saved and who will go to Eternal Lake of Fire. Therefore, God the Father actually created beings that He designs to spend eternity separated from Him, in spite of the fact that the Scriptures declare that He is not willing that any should perish.

Then they blaspheme the person and work of JESUS CHRIST.

He did not die for all the sins of the world—in spite of
1 John 2:2

and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for *those of the whole world.*

And yes, they know this verse but here is where you must be wise in choosing a Pastor-Teacher to sit under and learn, you ought to see how they twist not only this verse but so many other verses in the Bible dealing specifically with the Work of Christ on the cross.

They are so afraid that if they recognize the Free Will of man given by God, that they will be attacking His sovereignty, not realizing, first of all, that this is the Grace Plan of God and secondly, it exalts the Sovereignty of God.

We have seen many times that you have to be so careful of that word Grace. They call it Grace that God designed a person to spend eternity in a lake of fire. It might be Grace if you are in the 'elect' but if you are not... well, God does not deal with you in Grace.

Then there is the work of JESUS CHRIST.

They teach “limited atonement” —
—while **Scripture is clear that He died for all.**

So, Calvinism is just one of many of those false teachings of man that seduces so many away from the truth.

Lordship Salvation

This is a relatively new heresy or false teaching that has seduced many away from the Grace of the Word of God. It has destroyed seminaries, churches and even families.

Oh, people, Paul's warnings to be on guard, be alert, see to it etc., and yet Christians are taken in by these enticing words of pastor teachers.

This false teaching sounds so nice... making JESUS CHRIST Lord of your life... yes, we should all move in that direction over a period of time, but salvation is simply...

believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shall be saved....

or

For by grace you have been saved through faith and that not of yourselves, it is a gift of God.

**Clearly there is Only One Decision
by which we are Saved Eternally**

**and that is to Believe
in JESUS CHRIST as our Savior.**

But to have Jesus Christ become Lord of your Life,
demands decisions made every day of your life

This involves decisions of how you use your time, your money, choosing of friends and choosing of local church.

People, Jesus Christ is LORD. You don't make him LORD. You must recognize that He is Lord of your Life over a period time.

Again, teachers of **Lordship Salvation** use “fine sounding” arguments or through interpretations that “sound reasonable”.

People, this is exactly why Paul worded Colossians 2:4 the way he did...

I say this that no one will delude you with persuasive argument. And this includes their nice creative way of interpreting Scripture.

Salvation by Works

There are multiple fine sounding rhetoric to justify various list on what you have to do to be saved, along with or even beside believing in JESUS CHRIST. Be aware of any twisting or distorting of by Grace through Faith. **Faith only in Christ only.**

Prosperity Gospel

You talk about smooth sounding rhetoric; the prosperity gospel is it. Therefore, the Christian life is known by

prosperity which negates all the passages on suffering for JESUS CHRIST and suffering as He suffered.

Enticing words to beguile in design of Worship

What constitutes worship and how music is worship without teaching of the Word of God. Of course, there is no biblical basis for this distortion of worship unless of course you are seduced with nice sounding twisting of biblical truth.

Well-crafted twisting of Scripture for Spirituality

How to be Filled with the Holy Spirit. They range much like the arguments and twisting of Scripture on how to be saved. Beware! Be on alert!

The Charismatic Movement or Emotionalism

These smooth-talking teachers can make you feel guilty if you do not emote for Jesus.

Spirituality by knowledge

Now here you will hear well-crafted arguments on how the whole issue in the Christian life is just learning, knowing Scripture. The problem with arguments like this is that the increasing in the Knowledge of God and growing in the Knowledge of JESUS CHRIST are part of the Biblical description of the Christian life.

But this must be considered with Paul's words:
knowledge makes arrogant while Spiritual Love edifies.

Spirituality by Works

Like Spirituality by knowledge Spirituality by works can be argued from many passages of Scripture – which do not consider the importance of the leading and power of the Holy Spirit. These people teach that you must work hard for God.

Legalism

Another argument that is so strong throughout Church history. Remember, “a little legalism will not hurt you, it will kill you” that is, kill your Spiritual Life. But again, they can make it sound so right by perverting Scripture.

Universalism

You want to hear some arguments that sound reasonable on the service, just listen to various approaches to universalism. They make it sound like if you do not believe universalism, you are attacking the very character of God, while in fact it is their rhetoric that attacks not only God but JESUS CHRIST and the Scriptures.

I think you get the idea of just how man <pastor-teachers> can lead so many away from the truth. This list is but a short list of all the movements going on under the umbrella of Christ.

You must be aware, be alert... listen carefully.

Question:
How can I know the Truth?

This is a most bona fide question, especially in today's world with so many movements and teachers and churches, etc.

Let's see what the Bible tells us.

Again Hebrews 6:1

Therefore, leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ.

Listen to what is being taught about JESUS CHRIST.

Does anything they are teaching add to or take away from or minimize the work of JESUS CHRIST on the cross?

If so do not be deceived.

For example, if we start with fundamental understanding of the person and work of JESUS CHRIST we are guarded against **Calvinism, Lordship Salvation** and any teaching that makes self the issue.

Study the Scriptures as to the Person and Work of JESUS CHRIST. From the Old Testament and the New Testament... but not by traditions of man.

A Prophet?

Yes, but He is **The Promised Prophet**, He is the **Son of God**,
He is both **God-and-man**,
He is **Undiminished Deity** and
True Humanity in one person.
He is the Only One Sent by God
to provide the way of salvation.

He is Perfect Humanity.

He died twice on the cross... spiritually and physically.
He rose from the dead to Justify everyone who will believe in Him. He ascended to the Right-Hand of God.

He is Coming Again and we learn how to Love from Him.
You understand all these things and allow them to guide you on listening to a Pastor-Teacher and you are on your way to maturity.

So, in answer to the question:
Can I know the Truth?
Yes, and it starts with JESUS CHRIST.

This includes a correct understanding of Grace and Faith.
A firm understanding and belief that the Bible is the Divinely Inspired, Infallible, Inerrant Word of God, and the Final Authority in your life.

Colossians 2:9

For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form,
We listed a multitude of things we learned about JESUS CHRIST from Colossians, chapter one. Here we are in just the 9th verse of chapter 2.

Let us see what we have learned about JESUS CHRIST.

First JESUS CHRIST is the Mystery of God

Colossians 2:2

That their hearts may be encouraged having been knit together (in unity) in Spiritual Love resulting in attaining all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding... resulting in 'influential' knowledge of the Mystery of the God Christ Himself.

We learn more in verse 3

In whom JESUS CHRIST are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Think about this, the more we learn about JESUS CHRIST we are in God's treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Then verses 4 and 8 are warnings against being deceived and taken away from JESUS CHRIST. And verse 5, 6, 7 instruct on how to stay alert and not be lured away.

If you desire wisdom about God, creation, heaven, hell you will find it in increasing in the Knowledge of JESUS CHRIST.

If you desire wisdom about life, marriage, sex, finances, solving problems in life: you will find it in increasing the Knowledge of JESUS CHRIST.

If you desire wisdom about the world, politics, understanding the past and the future: you will find it in increasing in the Knowledge of JESUS CHRIST.

If you desire Wisdom about morality, sex, drugs, addictions phonography: you will find it in increasing in the Knowledge of JESUS CHRIST.

If you desire Wisdom on forgiveness, love, revenge: you will find it in increasing in the Knowledge of JESUS CHRIST.

If you desire Wisdom on inner peace, happiness, contentment with life, you will find it in increasing in the Knowledge of JESUS CHRIST.

Colossians 2:9

9 **For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form.**

Here is a fantastic verse that few have grasp the significance of it in context.

So, let us see if we can grasp why Paul says this here...

**“The glories of the person of JESUS CHRIST
as related to us in the PLAN OF GOD.”**

What does this mean?

The Plan of God has only one perfect person in it and that is the LORD JESUS CHRIST and all the rest of us in the Plan of God are the very antithesis of that. We are everything that is absolutely zero as far as the character of God is concerned.

To appreciate the person and work of JESUS CHRIST you have to start with the **total depravity of man**. But even here you have to be careful. You have to understand what all is involved in the total depravity of man.

The Calvinist teaches that this means that man is incapable of Faith unless God gives him the Faith in His Son.

This is a well-crafted argument that deceives in regard to the state of man in the Penalty of sin and the Grace of God to every creature in total depravity.

Now back to our study:

When you start with the absolute perfection and glory of God and then you look at the total depravity of man, you have to ask yourself, **“how is it even possible that man can have a relationship with the Perfect God?”**

WE STUDIED THIS UNDER THE 10 QUESTIONS OF JOB.

And that is the message of this verse.

This is what is resolved by this verse.

How is it even possible for man to have a relationship with the perfect awesome God?

**We can't earn it,
we don't deserve it, and
certainly, we cannot work for it in any way.**

So how is it possible for us to live our lives with perfect God?

**WE ARE THE *BENEFICIARIES* OF THE *GRACE* OF
GOD EVERY MOMENT WE LIVE
BY THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST**

—WHY—?

Colossians 2:9

9 For :wrong: because in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form and in Him you have been made complete

JESUS CHRIST is the solution to our Inadequacy

If you correctly understand our inadequacies-- our depravity under the Penalty of sin and if you correctly understand His Fullness, then you will be guarded against being led astray by any false teaching in regards to Salvation – Spirituality and your Confidence in Time and Eternity.

You will never be seduced away from Truth by Calvinism, Lordship Salvation or any works system for Salvation or Spirituality.

**We should worship
and praise Him
and Give Thanks to Him every day!**

The word **for** at the beginning of verse 9 connects verses 8 and 9 and should be translated **because**. It introduces the cause or reason why philosophy and all empty deceptions are dangerous and so unnecessary

There are three things listed in the Word of God that man pursues:

1 One is Things 1 Timothy 6:17

17 **Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy.**

2 Another is people Isaiah 40:6-8

6 **A voice says, “Call out.” Then he answered, “What shall I call out?” All flesh is grass, and all its loveliness is like the flower of the field.**

7 **The grass withers, the flower fades, When the breath of the LORD blows upon it; Surely the people are grass**

8 **The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever.**

3 And thirdly: human wisdom from Job to Colossians 2:8

The truly wise person (*young or old, male or female, Jew or Gentile*) knows that the only true fulfillment and completeness comes from knowing Him who is fully complete.

Note the word **FULLNESS** in verse 9.

This was a favorite word of the Gnostics. To them '**FULLNESS**' was not to be found in any one place. Paul counters this prevalent view that was seducing many Christians with the declaration that ***FULLNESS is found in one person and that person is Jesus Christ.***

This verse introduces an introduction to the study of

THE DOCTRINE OF MEDIATOR.

How JESUS CHRIST is the mediator between God and man.

He is equal with God---**fullness of deity dwells in Him** and
He is equal with humanity being born into the human race.

Understanding the importance of a Mediator between God
and man is given to us in the first book God gave to man.

Job 9:32-33

32 **“For *He* God *is* not a man as I am that I may answer Him,
That we may go to court together.**

33 **“There is no umpire between us, no mediator **Who may
lay his hand upon us both.****

Five points about MEDIATOR

1

A Mediator must be able to lay his hand on the heads of both.
We cannot lay our hands on the head of God—we are not
God.

2

To satisfy God a Mediator must be equal with God and with
man but without sin.

3

God in His love and Mercy provided a Mediator in His own son
through the incarnation.

1 Timothy 2:5

**For there is one God, *and* one mediator also between God and
men, *the* man Christ Jesus,
...because in Him dwells the Fullness of Deity** (Colossians 2:9)

4

Therefore, JESUS CHRIST was qualified to:

- A. Propitiate (SATISFY GOD) 1 John 2:2
- B. Reconcile man to God Colossians 1:21

5

Where once stood the barrier between God and man, now stands the Mediator.

The only way and access to the perfect Holy God is through or by our Mediator, Jesus the Christ. John 14:6

6 **Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."**

**I pray that each one of you
find the fullness of your life
in the fullness of Jesus Christ,
who loves you!**