



Philosophy or the Gospel?

Colossians 2:4-23

The Appearance of Wisdom

✦ true wisdom : hidden in Christ (v2-3)

✦ v23

✦ ***The deadliest form of evil is that which has the appearance of being good.***

✦ Satan's age-old tactic beginning with Eve: offer evil in the appearance of goodness / "godliness"



Four Philosophies

✦ The Philosophy of Humanism (v8)

✦ The Philosophy of Religious Legalism (v16-17)

✦ The Philosophy of Spiritual Egotism (v18-19)

✦ The Philosophy of Asceticism (v20-23)

The Philosophy of Humanism

✚ v8

✚ in Colossae: gnosticism – “god” in all souls, trapped in material world (perversion with Eastern religions)

✚ today’s features:

- all religions lead to God
- salvation by works
- a “loving” God in the context of suffering and hell
- limiting God to mind’s confines (“Christian evolutionism”, etc.)

✚ **the problem : no need for Christ!**

✚ ***Are you okay with a God too big to comprehend? (v8)***

The Philosophy of Religious Legalism

✦ v16-17

✦ Old Covenant: an employment... a set of rules

✦ New Covenant: a marriage... love!

Examples of the contrast:

✦ Food: Leviticus 11, Matthew 15:10-20

✦ Sabbath: Exodus 31:13-17, Mark 2:27

✦ **the problem : no need for Christ!**

✦ ***Have you fallen in love with the shadow? (v6,17)***

The Philosophy of Spiritual Egotism

✚ v18-19

✚ emphasis on the supernatural:

- adoration of angels
- visions
- inflated minds

✚ **the problem: no need for Christ!**

✚ ***Are you more attractive to yourself than Christ is? (v19)***

The Philosophy of Asceticism

✿ v20-23

✿ one extreme (severity) to combat another (indulgence)

✿ features (v22):

- self-made religion
- self-abasement
- severe bodily treatment

✿ **the problem: no need for Christ!**

✿ ***Are you actually living in the world or not?! (v20)***

The Gospel

1. v13: Our sins are completely forgiven
2. v11-12: Our Old Man was buried with Christ
3. v14: We are freed from the Law
4. v15: The hosts of hell have been fully vanquished
5. v9-10: We have been made complete in Christ
(John 1:14,17) full of grace and full of truth

 ***True Christianity makes Christ everything,
and everything about Christ!***



To Do or Not To Do?

- 1. Does the Bible call it sin, or will it do harm to anyone?**
- 2. Do I have a clear conscience – with Jesus beside me, and unashamed to be found doing it upon His return?**
- 3. Will God be glorified by it, or will it in any way bring dishonor to the name of God?**
- 4. Will it blunt my spiritual effectiveness in any way?**
- 5. For important matters, have I sought godly counsel?**