

## ***Deleting Delusion*** September 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013

### ***Colossians 1:28-2:10***

#### **Paul addresses the people with words of encouragement and warning.**

##### ❖ Encouragement *Colossians 1:28 – 2:3*

The Goal: teaching everyone to present everyone mature in Christ *Colossians 1:28*

The Means: unity of direction (“being knit together”) to reach the riches of understanding, wisdom and knowledge *Colossians 2:1-3*

##### ❖ Warning *Colossians 2:4-8*

Beware of other teachers trying to *delude* you with *plausible* arguments.

Delude: “To deceive; to impose on; to lead from truth or into error; to mislead the mind or judgment; ...”<sup>1</sup>

Plausible: “That may be applauded; that may gain favor or approbation; hence, superficially pleasing; ...”<sup>1</sup>

#### **Paul gives clear direction as to how to “Delete the Delusion!”**

“Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,” *Colossians 2:6*

Walk: (Greek: *peripateo*) “...signifying the whole round of the activities of the individual life...”<sup>2</sup>

↳ Christians are to apply God’s Word to every area of life!

“Rooted and built up in Him...”

Root: “to sink deep”<sup>1</sup>

Built: “to form or to shape”<sup>1</sup>

↳ Christians are to be intentional and determined in their growth in Christ!

“Established in the faith, just as you were taught...”

Teach: (Greek: *didasko*) “to give instruction”<sup>2</sup>

↳ The church should educate, teach and instruct all believers to establish them in the faith!

#### **Paul warns of the danger of being taken “captive by philosophy and empty deceit...”**

Philosophy: “denotes ‘the love and pursuit of wisdom,’ hence, ‘philosophy,’ the investigation of truth ...”<sup>2</sup>

#### **What deceitful philosophies should we be aware of that are being taught and promoted today?**

Pluralism: All belief systems are equal and valid. One is not more right than another.

*John 17:3 “And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.”*

Relativism: No moral absolutes exist

*John 12:48 “The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.”*

Darwinian Evolution: Man is only a part of nature and emerged as the result of a continuous process.

*Genesis 1:1 “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”*

Naturalism: Denies the supernatural and advances the idea of the irrelevance of God

*Romans 1:19-21 “For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For His invisible attributes, namely, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. For although they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks to Him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.”*

Revisionist History: The removal of our Christian Heritage

“Take away the heritage of a people, and they are easily persuaded.” - Karl Marx  
*1 Chronicles 16:12-26*

Devaluing of Life: Abortion is acceptable and encouraged.

*Psalms 139:13-16*

Promotion of Moral Depravity: Casual and recreational sex outside of marriage – both heterosexual and homosexual behavior are considered normal.

*Ephesians 5:3-17*

Rejecting the Sacredness of the Marriage Covenant

♦ Unbridled Adultery

*Luke 16:18* “*Everyone who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery, and he who marries a woman divorced from her husband commits adultery.*”

♦ Redefining of Marriage

*Leviticus 18:22* “*You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination.*”

Universalism: The belief that everyone will eventually be saved and in heaven

*Matthew 25:46* “*And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.*”

*“Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all His energy that He powerfully works within me.”  
Colossians 1:28-29*

Endnotes:

<sup>1</sup> Webster, Noah. *American Dictionary of the English Language (1828 Facsimile Edition)*. San Francisco: Foundation for American Christian Education, 1989.

<sup>2</sup> Vine, W.E. *Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words*. Nashville: T. Nelson Publishers, 1997.

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