

INTRODUCTION.

WE ARE CURRENTLY MOVING THROUGH COL. 2:6-23.

▶▶ As we've noted, ~ in this paragraph, ~ Paul lays down a series ~ of five exhortations, ~ calling believers ~ to stay faithful ~ and not buckle under the pressure ~ of false teaching.

▶▶ And again, ~ Paul expands on each one ~ with additional teaching.

AND WITHIN THIS LARGER CONTEXT, ~ WE ARE NOW ZEROING IN ON THE SECOND exhortation and its expansion.

▶▶ This section is quite lengthy.

▶▶ And to keep the big picture in mind, ~ let's review the overall outline.

▷▷ 8a, ~ The exhortation.

▷▷ 8b-15, ~ Paul expands on the exhortation.

↳↳ 8b, ~ The means by which false teachers attempt to capture believers.

↳↳ 8c, ~ The two sources of false teaching.

↳↳ And 9-15, ~ Rebuttal. ⇔⇔ 2nd.

LAST TIME, ~ WE LOOKED AT THE SECOND EXHORTATION ~ AND THEN BEGAN ~ TO look at Paul's additional teaching on it. 📖 1/15

▶▶ In the second exhortation, ~ Paul calls believers to ~ "Maintain a constant watch, ~ so that ~ no one takes you captive."

▷▷ As noted, ~ we need to have ~ this high-level watchfulness and attentiveness, ~ in order ~ to not be taken by surprise and fooled ~ by false teachers.

▷▷ The imagery Paul uses, as we observed, ~ is that of false teachers ~ taking believers away from the gospel ~ and into ~ the slavery of error.

↪↪ False teaching, ~ like sin, ~ leads us into slavery.

▷▷ A couple of factors ~ that ~ will put us into danger ~ are not being well-grounded in God's word ~ and spiritual immaturity.

↪↪ These factors in the life of a believer ~ make them easy prey for false teachers.

▶▶ The means by which false teachers attempt to capture believers ~ is through hollow and deceptive doctrines ~ that promise much ~ but deliver nothing.

▷▷ The heretics' hollow and deceptive ideas ~ might appear reasonable, ~ and even compelling, ~ ¶¶

↪↪ until one examines them carefully ~ and discovers ~ there is absolutely no substance.

▷▷ The whole system is designed ~ to fool the unwary.

▷▷ We can find an apt analogy ~ in modern advertising. ⇔⇔ Think about it.

↪↪ For that is precisely ~ what false teaching is: ~~ deceptive marketing ~ meant ~ to trap gullible people ~ looking for a quick fix. ¶¶ 2/15

▶▶ And, ~ as we noted, ~ there are two sources of false teaching.

▷▷ 1st, ~ the human mind.

▷▷ False teachers claim to speak for God.

↳↳ But in reality, ~ they teach and preach deceptive, ~ man-made stories ~ that have ~ no basis in reality ~ and ~ no value whatsoever.

↳↳ Furthermore, ~ they may claim to speak for Jesus, ~ but Paul tells us in Philipians ~ that ~ they are actually enemies ~ of the true gospel.

▷▷ The second source, ~ are demons.

↳↳ The NT ~ regularly links false teaching ~ with the demonic.

↳↳ Recall ~ Paul tells us that the Holy Spirit tells us clearly ~ that in the last times ~ some will turn away from the true faith.

→→ They will follow ~ deceptive spirits ~ and teachings that come from demons.

▷▷ False teaching ~ comes ~ from the human mind and demons.

TODAY, ~ WE'LL BEGIN TO CONCENTRATE ~ ON PAUL'S REBUTTAL, ~ VERSES 9-15.

▶▶ The hollow and deceptive doctrines of the false teachers ~ consisted ~ of a distortion ~ of the Person and work of Jesus.

▶▶ In these verses ~ Paul gives a rebuttal ~ to ~ these hollow and deceptive doctrines of the false teachers. ⇨⇨ 2nd rebuttal. ↴↴ 3/15

▷▷ In crystal-clear words, ~ Paul once again ~ lays out sound doctrine.

▶▶ Paul makes ~ 7 assertions ~ in his rebuttal.

▷▷ Today, ~ we'll focus our attention ~ on the first three.

THE 1st ASSERTION. ⇔⇔ Vs. 9.

FOR IN HIM ~ THE WHOLE FULLNESS OF DEITY ~ DWELLS BODILY.

▶▶ Here Paul reaffirms ~ both ~ the deity and the humanity ~ of Jesus.

ACCORDING TO THE FALSE TEACHERS, ~ GOD WAS GOOD ~ BUT MATTER WAS EVIL.

▶▶ Because the good God could not have created evil matter, ~ a series of intermediary spirit beings emanating out of God ~ was postulated.

▷▷ And each one, ~ they taught, ~ was less God than the one preceding.

▷▷ It was one of the lesser emanations, ~ far removed from God, ~ that created matter.

▷▷ In such a scheme, ~ Jesus ~ was simply ~ one ~ of the higher emanations.

▷▷ Thus, ~ they denied his full deity.

▶▶ But because of their belief that matter was evil, ~ they also denied his humanity.

▷▷ Since matter was viewed as evil, ~ it was inconceivable in their thinking ~ that a good emanation ~ could take up a human body. ↴↴ 4/15

▶▶ The false teachers ~ also denied ~ the sufficiency of Christ for salvation.

▷▷ Said ~ to be complete, ~ a person needed more.

▶▶ Furthermore, ~ angels were objects of worship ~ because of the belief ~ that their help was essential for salvation.

▷▷ All of these ~ are hollow and deceptive doctrines.

THERE ARE NO EMANATIONS FROM GOD.

▶▶ No series of intermediary spirit beings, ~ each one being less God than the one preceding.

▶▶ The gulf between heaven and earth ~ was bridged ~ in the incarnation of Jesus Christ.

▶▶ He is declared to be ~ "Emmanuel, ~ God with us."

▶▶ God the Son, ~ in his full and complete deity, ~ stepped onto the historical scene ~ as a human being.

▶▶ In the beginning ~ was the Word, ~~ and the Word ~ was with God, ~~ and the Word ~ was God. ~~ And the Word became flesh ~ and dwelt among us.

▶▶ Jesus ~ is fully God.

▷▷ He's not some intermediary angel, ~ sharing deity. ⇔⇔ One mediator

THE PHRASE, ~ "IN HIM" ~ IN VERSE 9 ~ IS EMPHATIC.

▶▶ We can read it this way. ⇔⇔ in Him ~ and in Him alone ~ the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily. ↴↴ 5/15

ALL THAT GOD IS ~ IN HIS ~ CHARACTER, ~ ATTRIBUTES, ~ POWER, ~ AND BEING, ~ this ~ is who Jesus is.

▶▶ When we think ~ of the infinite nature ~ of divine mercy, ~ grace, ~ and love, ~ it is found in all its fullness ~ in him.

▶▶ Or ~ if we consider ~ the divine wrath, ~ justice, ~ and righteousness, ~ they are found without limit ~ in Jesus.

IN THE 12th CHAPTER OF HIS GOSPEL, ~ JOHN WRITES ~ THAT ISAIAH ~ SAW JESUS' glory.

▶▶ He was referring back ~ to [Is. 6:1-3](#).

▶▶ In the year that King Uzziah died ~ I saw the Lord ~ sitting upon a throne, ~~ high and lifted up; ~~ and the train of his robe ~ filled the temple. ~~ Above him ~ stood the seraphim. ~~ Each had six wings: ~~ with two he covered his face, ~~ and with two he covered his feet, ~~ and with two he flew. ~~ And one called to another ~ and said: ~~ "Holy, ~ holy, ~ holy ~ is the Lord of hosts; ~~ the whole earth is full of his glory!"

▶▶ This ~ is Jesus.

THE WRITER OF HEBREWS TELLS US ~ THAT ~ IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH OUR salvation, ~ he had to become human.

▶▶ [Heb. 2:14-17 \(CSB\)](#).

▷▷ Now since the children have flesh and blood in common, ~ Jesus also shared in these, ~~ so that ~ through his death ~ he might destroy the one holding the power of death ~ that is, ~ the devil ~~ and free those who were held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death. ~~ For it is clear ~ that he does not reach out to help angels, ~ but to help Abraham's offspring. ~~ Therefore, ~ he had to be like his brothers and sisters ~ in every way, ~~ so that ~ he could become a merciful and faithful high priest ~ in matters pertaining to God, ~~ to make atonement for the sins of the people. **↩ 6/15**

IN JESUS ~ AND IN JESUS ALONE ~ THE WHOLE FULLNESS OF DEITY DWELLS BODILY.

▶▶ dwells here ~ means ~ permanently dwells.

▶▶ Jesus ~ did not lay aside his humanity ~ when he ascended back to heaven.

▶▶ He possesses ~ a glorified body to be sure, ~ but it is a real body.

▶▶ After His resurrection, ~~ our Lord was careful to assure His disciples ~ that He was the same Person in the same body.

▷▷ He was not ~ a ghost or a spirit.

▶▶ There is a glorified Man in heaven! ~~ The God-Man, ~~ the Messiah, ~ Jesus, ~ the Lord.

▶▶ But, ~ he still has the scars of crucifixion.

▷▷ Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, ~~ and place my finger into the mark of the nails, ~~ and place my hand into his side, ~~ I will never believe.

▷▷ Put your finger here, ~ and see my hands; ~~ and put out your hand, ~ and place it in my side. ~~ Do not disbelieve, ~ but believe.

▷▷ His scars ~ will be an eternal reminder to us ~ of the sacrifice of himself ~ he made on our behalf.

THE 2nd ASSERTION OF PAUL'S REBUTTAL.

VERSE 10a, ~~ AND YOU HAVE BEEN FILLED IN HIM.

▶▶ This speaks of the sufficiency of Christ's work on the cross. ¶ 7/15

▶▶ His sacrifice of himself ~ on the cross on our behalf ~ was ~ 100% ~ sufficient ~ to effect our salvation.

▷▷ Need ~ no one and nothing else ~ to complete our salvation.

FURTHERMORE, ~ THE GREEK GRAMMAR INDICATES ~ ¶¶

▶▶ that ~ the work has been done ~ and the resulting condition continues.

▶▶ IOW, ~ there will ~ never ~ be a time ~ when we need something further for our salvation.

▶▶ The author of Hebrews, ~ in 10:18, says, ~ *Where there is forgiveness of these, ~ there is no longer ~ any offering for sin.*

▷▷ I.e., ~ when sins have been forgiven, ~ which they have through Christ, ~ there is ~ no need ~ to offer any more sacrifices.

▷▷ The author of Hebrews tells us ~ that ~ *But when Christ had offered for all time ~ a single sacrifice for sins, ~ he sat down at the right hand of God.* ⇨⇨ *Twice*

↪↪ This signifies ~ that ~ the work was complete ~ and portrays his exalted position.

→→ Earthly priests would stand and keep offering sacrifices. ⇨⇨ *Their work was never finished.*

↪↪ Jesus' sacrifice ~ was final and complete.

OUR UNDERSTANDING OF SALVATION ~ MAY GROW.

▶▶ And the appropriation ~ of the blessings of salvation ~ may increase. ¶¶ 8/15

▶▶ But in Christ, ~ we have ~ the fullness of salvation.

▶▶ And this goes on to cover every spiritual need we have.

▷▷ E.g., ~ the grace we need ~ to sustain us in trials.

▷▷ The grace ~ to aid us in living the Christian life.

▷▷ And the wisdom ~ that is needful to guide us ~ in this present evil age.

JESUS PAID IT ALL, ~~ NOT JUST SOME OF IT.

▶▶ There is no need to turn ~ in addition ~ to ~ hollow and deceptive doctrines, ~ religious rituals, ~ or angels.

▶▶ It is not ~ Christ plus something else.

▷▷ It is not ~ Christ plus baptism, ~~ or ~ Christ plus going to church, ~~ or ~ Christ plus church membership, ~ 77

↪↪ or ~ Christ plus giving money ~~ or ~ Christ plus good works.

▶▶ It is not, ~ as I've noted before, ~ "Jesus paid ~ almost ~ all of it.

▷▷ No, ~ it's, ~~ "Jesus paid it all, ~ All to Him I owe; ~~ Sin had left a crimson stain, ~~ He washed it white as snow."

▶▶ But what about things like baptism, ~ attending church, ~ church membership, ~ giving money, ~ and good works?

▷▷ They are all the outflow of salvation. 11 9/15

▷▷E.g., ~ Eph. 2:10. ⇔⇔ For we are his workmanship, ~ created in Christ Jesus ~ for good works, ~ which God prepared beforehand, ~ that we should walk in them.

WE SHOULD CONSIDER THIS AS WELL.

▶▶Millions of people today are trusting in their religion to get them into heaven.

▷▷They may think ~ that practicing their religion and its rituals ~ will get them into heaven.

▷▷They believe ~ that just because they were baptized ~ as an infant ~~ or as a child ~~ or as a teenager ~~ or as an adult ~ they are going to heaven.

▷▷They think that ~ church attendance ~ or receiving communion ~ will get them into heaven.

▷▷They think that ~ just because they are a member of a particular denomination or religion ~ that they're going to heaven. ⇔⇔ List could go on and on.

▷▷These things ~ will not get anyone into heaven.

↳↳These too ~ are hollow and deceptive doctrines.

↳↳Only saving faith in Jesus Christ, ~ and in Jesus Christ alone, ~ will get a person into heaven.

▶▶We need to understand ~ two things ~ from this.

▷▷1st, ~ these people ~ who are trusting in their religion ~ and all that goes with it ~ are lost, ~ in bondage, ~ ↴↴

↳↳and need the light of the true gospel of Jesus Christ, ~ to set them free. ↴↴ 10/15

▷▷ The 2nd thing we need to understand ~ is this.

↳↳ Satan ~ loves religion.

→→ And he will give people ~ as much religion as they want, ~ as long ~ as it keeps them from Christ.

▷▷ So, ~ we need to do all we can ~ to bring the true gospel into their lives.

THE 3rd ASSERTION OF PAUL'S REBUTTAL.

VERSE 10b, ~ WHO ~ [I.E., ~ JESUS] ~ IS THE HEAD OF ALL RULE AND AUTHORITY.

▶▶ Once again, ~ the spiritual realm ~ is in view.

▶▶ Earlier, ~ Paul had demons in view.

▷▷ And later he will have them in view again.

▷▷ And in those two places, ~ it's clear that demons are in view.

▶▶ Here though, ~ it's not so clear.

▶▶ But I believe he may have angels in view and not demons.

▷▷ Remember, ~ angels were objects of worship ~ because of the belief ~ that their help was essential for salvation.

▶▶ And Paul is setting the record straight ~ in this paragraph. **↵↵ 11/15**

JESUS ~ WAS NOT JUST ONE OF MANY INTERMEDIARIES OR ANGELS ~ who must be worshiped, ~ as the heresy maintained.

▶▶ Instead, ~ he is the head of every angelic being.

▶▶ Because Jesus is the head ~ and is superior to any angel or archangel, ~~ it would be absurd ~ to worship any angel.

▶▶ And no angel ~ would accept such worship.

▷▷ E.g., ~ twice ~ John fell down at the feet of the angel who was speaking to him.

↳↳ Perhaps he got too caught up in what he was witnessing as he recorded the book of Revelation.

→→ Plus, ~ angels in their natural state ~ are probably awesome in sight.

▷▷ Anyway, ~ the angel rebuked John.

↳↳ The angel referred to himself ~ as a fellow servant.

↳↳ And told John to worship God.

THERE IS NO ~ ANGELIC POWER OR AUTHORITY ~ THAT CAN MATCH JESUS, ~ in any way, ~ shape, ~ or form.

▶▶ There is no ~ angelic power or authority ~ that is independent of Jesus.

▶▶ Jesus ~ is the Lord and Supreme Commander of heaven's armies. **↴↴ 12/15**

AND THEY WORSHIP HIM.

▶▶ Rev. 5:11-12 (NIV).

▷▷ Then I looked ~ and heard the voice of many angels, ~ numbering thousands upon thousands, ~ and ten thousand times ten thousand. ~ They encircled ~ the throne and the living creatures and the elders. ~ In a loud voice ~ they were saying: ~ "Worthy is the Lamb, ~ who was slain, ~ to receive ~ power ~ and wealth ~ and wisdom ~ and strength ~ and honor ~ and glory ~ and praise!"

NOW, ~ EVEN THOUGH PAUL DOES NOT MENTION THEM HERE, ~ we should not ~ leave demons out ~ of this discussion.

JESUS ~ IS SOVEREIGN OVER THEM AS WELL.

▶▶ There is no demonic power or authority ~ that can rival Jesus. ⇔⇔ No cosmic dualism.

▶▶ None that is independent of him. ⇔⇔ Can only do what he allows.

▶▶ And terrified of Jesus.

PAUL WRITES IN EPH. 1:21, ~ ¶¶

▶▶ that Jesus ~ is ~ far above ~ all rule and authority and power and dominion, ~ and above ~ every name that is named, ~ not only in this age ~ but also in the one to come.

FIRST, ~ IN VERSE 21a, ~ PAUL SAYS THAT JESUS IS ~ "far above ~ all ~ rule ~ and authority ~ and power ~ and dominion ~ and every name that is named."

▶▶ "above," ~ or "far above," ~ does not indicate distance.

▷▷ The Greek word is a marker of superior status, ~ suggesting an additional factor of degree. ¶¶ 13/15

▷▷ We could read it this way: ~ Jesus ~ is ~ ¶¶

↳↳ infinitely superior ~ to all ~ rule ~ and authority ~ and power ~ and dominion ~ and every name that is named, ~ not only in this age ~ but also ~ in the coming one."

▶▶ Concerning the terms "rule and authority and power and dominion and every name named, ~ fallen angels, ~ or demons, ~ are in view here.

▷▷ Elsewhere, ~ when Paul speaks of many of these beings ~ he is referring ~ to hostile spiritual forces. (E.g., ~ 1 Cor. 15:24-25, ~ Eph. 6:12, ~ Col. 2:15)

↳↳ Therefore, ~ I take it to be the same here in Eph. 1:21.

▷▷ And the terms Paul uses ~ seem to simply refer ~ to categories ~ of demonic beings.

↳↳ We must not get hung up ~ on the individual ~ terms and meanings.

→→ Paul was not teaching a class on demons ~ but making a point about the infinite superiority of Jesus over them.

↳↳ Furthermore, ~ although the terms may imply some form of order and hierarchy within the demonic realm, ~ ¶¶

→→ there is no way for us to determine what that is.

▶▶ As far as the phrase "every name named," ~ ¶¶

▷▷ rather than continuing to list every conceivable category, ~ Paul summarizes all of them with this phrase.

▷▷ And the point being ~ that no demonic being ~ has been excluded. ¶¶ 14/15

▶▶Paul's overall point here ~ is that Jesus ~ is infinitely superior ~ to all of His, ~ and our, ~ spiritual enemies.

▷▷I.e., ~ Satan and his fellow fallen angels.

THEN IN VERSE 21b, ~ PAUL SAYS THAT JESUS ~ is infinitely superior ~ "not only in this age ~ but also in the coming one."

▶▶Simply put, ~ Jesus will be ~ "infinitely superior to all rule and authority and power and dominion and every name that is named" ~ forever.

▷▷Paul emphasizes that Jesus is now ~ and always will be ~ infinitely superior ~ to Satan and all his fellow demons.

↪↪Paul assures us ~ that ~ there will never be a time ~ when any demonic being, ~ Satan or otherwise, ~ 77

→→in any way ~ will threaten or rival ~ the absolute supremacy ~ of Jesus.

CONCLUSION.

AND, ~ WE SHOULD MENTION, ~ NEITHER ~ CAN ANY HUMAN ~ being, ~ government, ~ or army.

▶▶Ps. 2 for homework.

LET'S PRAY 15/15