

Colossians - Part 7
Taken
12/27/2020

- Taken
- How easy it is to fall into a trap and lose your identity in Christ
- Don't quit
- Simply preaches the Gospel
- Which causes all kinds of problems for him
- Artemis makes people rich
- Faith
- Persistence or pursuit

Acts 19:9-10 (NIV) But some of them became obstinate; they refused to believe and publicly maligned the Way. So Paul left them. He took the disciples with him and had discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. This went on for two years, so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord.

If Jesus is God who is Artemis?

Acts 19:24 (NIV) A silversmith named Demetrius, who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought in a lot of business for the craftsmen there.

Acts 19:25 (NIV) He called them together, along with the workers in related trades, and said: "You know, my friends, that we receive a good income from this business.

Acts 19:26 (NIV) And you see and hear how this fellow Paul has convinced and led astray large numbers of people here in Ephesus and in practically the whole province of Asia. He says that gods made by human hands are no gods at all.

Acts 19:27 (NIV) There is danger not only that our trade will lose its good name, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis will be discredited; and the goddess herself, who is worshiped throughout the province of Asia and the world, will be robbed of her divine majesty."

Acts 19:28 (NIV) When they heard this, they were furious and began shouting: "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"

- Truth costs

Col. 1:7 (NIV) You learned it from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf,

Col. 2:8 (NIV) See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.

You Can Get Taken by:

1st) The **TRADITIONAL** Trap.

Col. 2:8 (NIV) See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition

- Human traditions can lead to rituals

Then we start speaking Christianese

Christianese: "If it be God's will."

Translation: "I really don't think God is going to answer this one."

Christianese: "That's not my spiritual gift."

Translation: "Find someone else."

Christianese: "Fellowship Dinner"

Translation: "Organized gluttony."

Christianese: "The Lord works in mysterious ways."

Translation: "I'm totally clueless."

Christianese: "Lord willing I'll be there ..."

Translation: "You may think I'll be there, but I won't."

Christianese: "I have a 'check' in my spirit about him."

Translation: "I can't stand that jerk!"

- A traditionalist is living to please others rather than God
- I'm more worried about fitting in than following Jesus
- It's a trap
- It's dangerous
- What you are willing to walk away from determines what God will bring to you
- You're trying to follow the rules made by others
- You're looking more to a human code than to a supernatural cross

Col. 2:13 (NLV) When you were dead in your sins, you were not set free from the sinful things of the world. But God forgave your sins and gave you new life through Christ.

- It's the misbelief that I must have the approval of everybody in order to be happy
- You're never going to please everybody
- Be yourself.

2nd) The **JUDGEMENT** Trap.

Col. 2:16 (NIV) Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day.

- The pressure from Judgement can lead to perfectionism
- Beware of becoming a perfectionist
- A perfectionist is believing or trying to please God by being perfect
- You're constantly judging your behavior rather than trusting in the finished work of Jesus
- This will rob you of your joy
- It tricks you into putting the focus of your life on yourself rather than Jesus

Col. 2:17 (NIV) These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.

Galatians 3:1,3 (NIV) "You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain perfection by human effort?"

- Perfectionism is based on fear of God rather than on the love of God.
- Perfectionism destroys your peace.

2 Corinthians 12:9 (NIV) "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

- Christian living is based on grace, not guilt.

3rd) The **LEGALIST** Trap.

Col. 2:20-21(NIV) 20 Since you died with Christ to the elemental spiritual forces of this world, why, as though you still belonged to the world, do you submit to its rules: 21 "Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!"?

- A legalist will try to get you to do what they can't do
- A legalist will force their belief on you and try to get you to perform to their standard
- You should
- You can't
- You better not

Charles Spurgeon - I have found, in my own spiritual life, that the more rules I lay down for myself, the more sins I commit. The habit of regular morning and evening prayer is one which is indispensable to a believer's life, but the prescribing of the length of prayer, and the trying to remember every person, may bring me bondage unto bondage, and strangle prayer rather than assist it.

Col. 2:22-23 (NIV) These rules, which have to do with things that are all destined to perish with use, are based on merely human commands and teachings. Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.