

Colossians

(1) Introduction

Col 2:1-8

2 I want you to know how much I am struggling for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally. 2 My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. 4 I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments. 5 For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how orderly you are and how firm your faith in Christ is.

6 So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, 7 rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

8 See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.

NIV

The author and purpose of this letter

Who/where is the author of this letter? 1:1; 4:3 Who is the 'co-author'? 1:1

And to whom is the letter addressed? 1:2; 2:13, 16-17

What was alarming Paul about this young church at Colossae? 2:1-4

What was one of the deceptions? 2:8; ICor.1:22-23

What was another of the deceptions? 2:16, 20-23

This blend of deception is a hyper form of asceticism. What were some of its tenants?

The core issue at Colossae

If *matter* is evil, how would that impact their view of Christ? See IJn.2:22-24

How did *seeking deeper spiritual truth from angels*, impact their view of Christ? ICor.1:22

How do we see these same deceptive lies today? Note: Gnostics (NOS-tics)= 'in the know...'

What is the absolute truth about *where* to find wisdom, authority, completion? 2:10

And what is the fundamental response to all deceptive lies? 1:18; 3:11

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The author and purpose of this letter

Who/where is the author of this letter? 1:1; 4:3 Who is the 'co-author'? 1:1

Paul, an Apostle of Christ Jesus imprisoned @ Rome. Timothy was serving with him.

And to whom is the letter addressed? 1:2; 2:13, 16-17

To the holy and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae. Mixed, Jew and Gentile.

What was alarming Paul about this young church at Colossae? 2:1-4

The church was under attack. Being deceived by 'fine sounding arguments', 2:4,

What was one of the deceptions? 2:8; ICor.1:22-23

Hollow and deceptive philosophy. This was the Greek influence. Seeking deeper things!

What was another of the deceptions? 2:16, 20-23

Jewish legalism. Circumcision required, Feast days required. False humility, self denial.

This blend of deception is a hyper form of asceticism. What were some of its tenants?

Rigid legalists (>Pharisees), matter is evil, spirit is good, worshiped angels, loved visions.

The core issue at Colossae

If *matter* is evil, how would that impact their view of Christ? See IJn.2:22-24

He, as a man, could not possibly be God! God, as a Spirit could not possibly be physical.

How did *seeking deeper spiritual truth from angels*, impact their view of Christ? ICor.1:22

They required going beyond Christ! He was insufficient for their thirst for wisdom!

How do we see these same deceptive lies today? Note: Gnostics (NOS-tics)= 'in the know...'

This deception led to the sect called Gnosticism. Under different names, it's still here!

What is the absolute truth about *where* to find wisdom, authority, completion? 2:10

In Him (Christ) you are complete (full). He is the Head over all power and authority.

And what is the fundamental response to all deceptive lies? 1:18; 3:11

He has come to have first place in everything. Christ is all and in all. Totally sufficient!