“Their Deficiency and His Sufficiency”

Colossians 2:8-10 Sunday January 14, 2024

## INTRODUCTION READ Colossians 2:1-23 [Pew Bible pg. 925]

“The Sufficiency of Christ: Christianity Centered in Christ”

Sufficiency of The Person and Work of Christ For All Christians Examined

 Complete in Christ 2:4-7, 8-12, 17, 19 “Christ . . . in Him . . .with Him”

 His Is Lord of Salvation and Lord of the Christian Chapter Two

Recognize and Identify in our culture false teaching according to Scripture

This what Paul is teaching in this writing of this epistle [2:4, 8, 16, 18, 20].

With humanism presented by intellectuals in the form of philosophies of men v. 8

With ceremonialism taught through rituals in the form of religions of men v. 16

With ascetism taught by externals in the form of disciplines of men v. 18

And finally with legalism taught by rules in the form of moralities of men v. 20

As Christ is in His rightful place in the life of the Christian and the life of the church such false teachings will not be convincing or be deceiving or be persuading

His Sufficiency: Beware of Teaching Not According to Christ

Our Present Christian Walk . . . 2:6-7 The Present Christian Warning 2:8

1. Look Out For Teaching According To Man

And Not According to Christ 2:8

Such False Teaching Fails To Emphasize Their Deficiency

1. Warning About Every Deceiving by Men Within the Culture 2:8a

“See to it that no one takes you captive . . .” remember 2:4 and 1:23

“Be ever on your guard lest there shall be someone who leads you astray through his philosophy” Wuest “fall a prey to certain persons”

 real, personal who are people cf. Acts 20:28-34

 “ . . . through philosophy and empty deception . . .”

 Avoiding Captivity Through the Philosophies of Men

“human understanding in contrast with divinely revealed knowledge

With humanism presented by intellectuals in the form of philosophies of men

‘the way in which people are wise’ or ‘the manner in which people reason.”

1. Warning About Any Understanding of Man Without Christ 2:8b
2. according to the tradition of men . . . traditional instruction

 word of man and not the word of God cf. 1 Thessalonians 2:13

1. according to the elementary principles of the world . . .

 ABCs of learning cf. 2:20

1. and not according to Christ. unbiblical Instruction see 1:5-7; 2:1-5

1. See Clearly Christian Teaching About the Truth of Christ

 And Not About The Truths of Men 2:9

So Faithful Teaching Instructs To Explain His Sufficiency

 Cf. 2:6-7 “in Him . . . in Him . . . in Him . . .”

1. Teaching About All The Fullness of God In Christ 2:9

 “For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells bodily . . .” cf. 1:19

 Avoiding Capture Because Christ Is Completely God cf. 1:28

 “Paul asserts both the full deity and complete humanity of Jesus Christ”

Fullness of God and Complete in Christ

1. Teaching About We Are Only Complete In Christ 2:10

“ . . . and in Him you have been filled . . .”

 Avoiding Capture Since You Are Complete in Christ cf. 1:28

 “. . . who is the head over all rule and authority . . .”

In Him we are Fully Saved 2:11-12

 In Him we are Fully Forgiven 2:13-15

CONCLUSION Their Deficiency and His Sufficiency

1. Evaluate all Christian teaching based on What Is Taught About Christ
2. The Sufficiency of Christ strengthens our faith and encourages our hearts
3. Divine wisdom of the truth of Christ teaches us the errors of human wisdom
4. Because we are complete in Christ there is no need for more from anyone