

Colossians 2:4-7

4-5 Now this I say **lest anyone should DECEIVE you with PERSUASIVE WORDS**. For though I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the **STEADFASTNESS of your FAITH in Christ**.

• **Acts 20:28-31** “Therefore take _____ to _____ and to all the _____, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the _____ of God which He purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departure savage _____ will come in _____ you, not sparing the _____. Also from among yourselves _____ will rise up, _____ perverse (twisted) things, to _____ away the _____ after themselves. Therefore _____, and remember that for three years I did not cease to _____ everyone night and day with tears.”

• **Colossians 2:8** “_____ lest anyone _____ you through _____ and empty _____, according to the _____ of _____, according to the basic principles of the _____, and _____ according to _____.”

• **James 1:16** “Do _____ be _____, my beloved brethren.”

• **I John 1:8** “If we say that we have no _____, we _____ ourselves, and the _____ is _____ in us.”

• **Jeremiah 17:9** “The heart is more _____ than all else, and desperately _____, who can know it?”

• **I John 3:7** “Little children, let no one _____ you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is _____.”

Definition: “Lest anyone should DECEIVE you with PERSUASIVE WORDS” – To “deceive” means to trick, especially by telling lies that sound like the truth. **To BE DECEIVED would mean you had accepted and BELIEVED FALSE INFORMATION.** It could be accepting false doctrine given out by Satan and his “ministers”, or just being **SELF-DECEIVED**, which is another way to say **“BEING IN DENIAL.”** With “persuasive words” means by convincing argument - someone who can make something sound right, even if it isn’t. **Paul is warning us about false teachers, religious “con men”** so to speak, especially the ones who creep into the churches and pretend to be true Christians. It’s one thing to avoid false teachers who knock on your door or stand on the street corner pushing their false doctrines, but **it’s harder to detect them when they infiltrate the church itself, as it warns us in Acts 20:28-31.** Paul calls them “savage wolves” and Jesus calls them “wolves in sheep’s clothing” which means they will outwardly appear to be like the sheep or true Believers. You will be able to tell who they really are by examining their teachings, and by watching their lives (“by their fruits you shall know them”). Unfortunately, if we only wait to examine their lives, it may take a while before they slip up, and many gullible Believers may have fallen prey to their deception by then. **That’s why it is so important for us to have pure, true biblical doctrine ourselves, and to EXAMINE the TEACHING (doctrine) of anyone who comes along in the church and starts teaching or drawing followers to themselves.**

• **Matthew 7:15** “Beware of _____, who come to you in _____ clothing, but _____ are ravenous _____.”

• **II Peter 2:1-3** “But there were also _____ among the people, even as there will be _____ among you, who will secretly bring in _____ heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and

bring on themselves swift destruction. And _____ will _____ their _____ ways, because of whom the Way of Truth will be blasphemed. By covetousness they will _____ you with _____; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their _____ does not slumber.”

• **Romans 2:24** “For ‘The name of God is _____ among the Gentiles because of _____,’ as it is written.”

• **II Corinthians 11:13-15** “For such are _____ apostles, _____ workers, transforming themselves into (appearing to be) apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For _____ himself transforms himself into an _____ of _____. Therefore it is no great thing if _____ ministers also _____ themselves into _____ of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.”

Definition: “FALSE PROPHETS among the people” – Peter is using the Old Testament as a warning to Christians. There were many false prophets in the days of the Old Testament, and there will be many false prophets and teachers who will try to worm their way into the churches.

Definition: “BLASPHEME” – Blaspheme means to speak evil of; to speak irreverently or profanely, especially of God or sacred things; to curse or revile.

• **I Timothy 6:1** “Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honor, so that the _____ of _____ and His doctrine may _____ be _____.”

Definition: “MANY will FOLLOW their DESTRUCTIVE ways” – Who are we talking about here? **These are the “FALSE TEACHERS among you”, who will secretly bring in DESTRUCTIVE HERESIES.** This is a warning against these false teachers who will creep into Christian congregations and secretly teach things that are against the Bible. He says that **MANY will follow them, and that is why we have so many false cults in the world today.** This is not even talking about false religions such as Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, and the like, but he is talking about **false groups that LOOK LIKE CHRISTIANS at first glance**, but they are not! Many gullible people are fooled by these false teachers, including many church members and even true Christians, but if they don’t know the word of God well enough to discover the false teachings and “destructive ways” of these counterfeit religions, they will get sucked into a cult.

• **II Timothy 3:1-7** “But know this, that in the _____ days perilous (dangerous) times will come: for men will be _____ of _____, lovers of money, boasters, proud, _____, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers (haters) of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, _____ of _____ rather than lovers of God, having a _____ of _____ but denying the its power. And from such people turn _____! For of this sort are those who _____ into _____ and make _____ of _____ women loaded down with sins led away by various lusts, always learning and _____ able to come to the knowledge of the _____.”

• **Romans 16:17-18** “Now I urge you brethren, _____ those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary (against) to the _____ which you _____, and _____ them. For those who are such do _____ serve our Lord Christ, but their own belly (appetites), and by _____ words and _____ speech _____ the hearts of the _____.”

Definition: “GULLIBLE” – The dictionary defines gullible as “easily CHEATED or TRICKED; credulous”. Credulous means “someone who **tends to believe too readily, especially with LITTLE or**

NO PROOF.” We need to study and know God’s word, so that we won’t fall for the tricks of the false teachers! If we know what God’s word says, **we will not fall for their lies** or be easily tricked.

•**Hebrews 5:13-14** “For everyone who partakes only of milk is _____ in the _____ of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age (mature), that is, those who by reason of _____ (practice, studying God’s word) have their senses exercised to _____ both _____ and _____.”

Definition: “And from such people TURN AWAY!” – God’s word gives us instructions on how to GUARD ourselves from being deceived by false teachers. Jesus said, **“You will know them by their FRUITS” (Matt. 7:15-16)**, so we have the right to judge someone’s ministry or teaching to see if it is truly from God or not. **The Lord EXPECTS us to be DISCERNING**, and He certainly expects us to check everything out with His word (Hebrews 5:11-14, Acts 17:11). God expects us **to NOT be IGNORANT** of Satan’s schemes and tricks! As for false prophets, false teaching, and false believers, we are told to “note and AVOID them” in Romans 16:17-18, and **“to TURN AWAY from such people!”** We are told to take HEED, BEWARE and WATCH in Acts 20:28-31 and Matthew 16:6 & 12, and **to CHECK everything out by the WORD** in Acts 17:11. **“Take heed” means to pay attention** or take notice. We must be AWARE of what others are teaching, but how can you know if it is right or wrong, if you don’t know the word of God? You must **STUDY the word** and **SEARCH the word** to check out whether a certain teaching is from God or not.

•**II Timothy 2:15** “Be _____ to present yourself _____ to God, a worker who does _____ need to be ashamed, _____ dividing the _____ of truth.”

Definition: “Though I am ABSENT in the FLESH, yet I am WITH YOU in SPIRIT” – Paul was not there in person with the Colossian church, and that is why he was writing this letter to them, but he felt he was “with them in spirit.” Paul heard reports from other people, and kept up with what was happening in all the churches, so that he could help and warn them if they were in trouble. With the Colossian church, he was also **“rejoicing to see [their] good order and the STEADFASTNESS of [their] FAITH in Christ”**.

•**I Corinthians 5:3** “For I indeed, as _____ in _____ but _____ in _____, have already judged, as though I were _____, concerning him who has so done this deed.”

6-7 **As you have therefore RECEIVED Christ Jesus the Lord**, so walk in Him, **ROOTED and BUILT UP in Him and ESTABLISHED in the FAITH**, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.

•**Colossians 1:23** “If indeed you _____ in the _____,

and _____,
_____ moved
_____ from the
hope of the _____ which
you _____,
which was preached to
every creature under
heaven, of which I, Paul,
became a minister.”

•**II Thessalonians 2:16-17** “Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and

Father, who has _____ us and _____ us everlasting consolation and _____ by _____, _____ your _____ and _____ you in every good word and work.”

Definition: “As you have RECEIVED Christ Jesus the Lord” – How did you receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior? By your own good works, or by God’s grace without anything you could do? **Of course, we all had to receive Jesus just by faith and God’s grace to us, because we could NEVER do anything to earn our salvation.** Paul is saying here that **we need to “walk in Him” in the same way, and that is by totally trusting God, surrendering our whole self to Him, and “walking” (living our life) completely by faith.** When we start thinking that WE are the ones running our own life, or it’s in OUR OWN STRENGTH that we live the Christian life, we are doomed to fail (see Romans chapter seven).

We must admit our helplessness and completely rely on God’s strength to live for Him.

•**Revelation 3:3** “Remember therefore how you have _____ and _____;

hold fast and _____. Therefore if you will not _____, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you.”

•**Ephesians 4:20-21** “But you have _____ so _____ Christ; if so be that you have _____ Him, and have been _____ by _____, as the truth is in Jesus.”

•**Matthew 11:29** “Take My yoke upon you and _____ from _____, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find _____ for your _____.”

Definition: “ROOTED and BUILT UP in Him and ESTABLISHED in the FAITH” – This is the only way to keep ourselves from falling for the lies of the enemy, and that is to be **ESTABLISHED in the FAITH.** **We must have our ROOTS going down to hold us into the ground, GROUNDED IN GOD’S WORD,** so that we will not be washed away by the “flood” of lies and deceptive words that come from the false teachers that Paul warns about in verses 4 and 8, and the enemy himself. God also warns us in Jeremiah 17:7-10 about **the DECEITFULNESS of our own hearts,** and how we can easily fall for the lies of the enemy, if we are not watchful and careful, and **have our ROOTS firmly planted in Him and His truth.** **Putting our TRUST and HOPE in the Lord** is the way to blessing, and a prosperous life of wholeness, fruitfulness and happiness, like the flourishing tree planted by the river. If the tree represents your life, then **the ROOTS are your HEART.** You must **turn your heart to the Lord completely,** and let your relationship with God and His word be the thing that most consumes your time, effort and devotion.

•**Jeremiah 17:7-10** “_____ is the man who _____ in the _____, and whose hope is the Lord. For he shall be like a _____ planted by the waters, which spreads out its _____ by the river, and will _____ fear when heat comes; but its leaf will be green; and will _____ be _____ in the year of drought, nor will cease from yielding _____. The _____ is _____ above all things, and desperately _____; who can know it? I the _____ search the _____, I _____ the _____, to give to everyone according to his ways, and according to the fruit (results) of his doings.”

•**Matthew 13:6** “But when the sun was up they were _____, and because they had no _____ they withered away.”

•**Ephesians 3:17-19** “That Christ may dwell in your _____ through _____, that you, being _____ and _____ in _____, may be able to comprehend with _____ the _____ what is the width and length and depth and height — to know the _____ of _____ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”

•**Ephesians 2:19-22** “Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow

citizens with the saints and _____ of the _____ of _____, having been _____ on the _____ of the apostles and prophets, _____ Himself being the _____ cornerstone, in whom the whole _____, being _____ together, _____ into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being _____ together for a habitation of God in the Spirit.”

• **I Corinthians 3:10-11** “For _____ other _____ can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is _____.”