

TITLE: Colossians (Lesson 7)

TEXT: Col. 2:8-10

INTRO: “You will recall that the word *Gnostic* comes from the Greek *gnosis*, or *knowledge*. The Gnostics, in simple terms, thought they were smarter than everyone who wasn’t one of them. They tried to intimidate others by their intellectualism.” *D. Jeremiah*

- I. (vs. 8) Beware of Intellectualism.
  - A. Paul was not against education per se.
  - B. He was however warning us against *Gnosticism*.

NOTE: A *Gnostic* believes he has knowledge (*gnosis*) that goes beyond the Bible. Because of his education and/or intellect he believes he is smarter than Bible believers.

- C. Intellectuals who discredit the Bible are thieves.

NOTE: Any philosophy (the love of wisdom) that leads one away from faith in Christ.

- II. (vs. 8) The Four Characteristics of Intellectualism.
  - A. Intellectualism is deceptive.

- 1. *Philosophy* is the best the human mind can offer.
- 2. The intellect’s highest effort without God is “empty deceit”.
- 3. The key word here is *deceit*.

- B. Intellectualism claims antiquity.

NOTE: Paul was familiar with traditions! See Gal. 1:11-16 Traditions can be good or bad. The question is: What is the origin of the tradition? Man or God?

- C. Intellectualism is demonic.

- 1. Satanic forces are at work in our world today.

NOTE: “The philosophies that drive our educational system, infiltrate our politics, dilute our theology, pervade our media, and divide our world...” *DJ* See I John 5:19

- 2. Paul may have been warning them against “the religious astrology of the day.”

NOTE: “The fact that this teaching is not after Christ is sufficient to warn us against horoscopes, astral charts, Ouija boards, and other spiritist practices. The whole zodiac system is contrary to the teaching of the Word of God.” *Warren Wiersbe*

- D. Intellectualism is enslaving.

- 1. Christ has set us free! Don’t go backwards!

NOTE: Gal. 1:6-9 We can’t live spiritual lives with only natural insight!

- III. (vs. 8b-10) The Folly of Abandoning Christ.

- A. “Christ is God in a body.”

NOTE: I Tim. 3:16

- B. “God is in Christ, and Christ is in us.”

NOTE: Col. 1:27; I Cor. 1:30-31 “All wisdom is found in Christ, who is our wisdom. Wisdom in Scripture is ability and skill. The wisdom that Christ is for us is explained by these words; all that we need to be right before God (*righteousness*), to be holy in this life (*sanctification*), and to see full salvation (*redemption*) is found in Christ Jesus.”

*The Reformation Heritage KJV Study Bible*