

Colossians
“A Worthy Walk”
III. Main Teaching: 1:15-4:6

2:4-23 **Walking in the Word of Christ**

2:4-7 In Faith 2:8-10 In Fullness

2:6-8
“True verses False”

I. Intro.

II. Vs. 6-7 Antidote to a boring life

III. Vs. 8 Teaching your horse to spit

I. Intro.

We left off at Paul’s appeal to a boring life which is to represent Jesus Christ. Paul will conclude this then move on to the danger of being spiritually deceived. Pitch men are everywhere trying to convince us that the product of service they are pushing is the key to what ails us. Many people think that because they saw it on the web it must be true. But such deception isn’t new, back in the 1940’s in a farm magazine an ad appeared promising a solution to “*slobbering horses*” for only \$20.00. Hundreds sent off their hard earned dollars only to receive a thin envelope with five words on a single sheet of instructions that simple read “***Teach your horse to spit***”. There are a lot of false teachers giving similar spiritual instructions today and for only \$19.95 you can get their book or video that will instruct you on how to teach your horse to spit but all you will end up getting is spitting mad! It is a tragic truth that there are those who peddle their false teaching to the spiritually bored believer, some go door to door, some do so on the T.V. and still others sell their lies right next to God’s Word at Christian Book Stores!

II. Vs. 6-7 Antidote to a boring life

I believe these two verses give the antidote for a boring Christian life:

Vs. 6 **Faith**: We need to answer the question that Paul indirectly proposes here in this verse: “*How did you receive Christ Jesus?*” The answer is that we simply trusted in Him alone. Boredom has come because we have supplanted simple trust with works and religion and when that happens excitement goes out the window. When have-too’s become the norm instead of get-too’s! The way to revitalize any relationship especially one with Jesus is to get back to the simple trust we had at the beginning. That’s why Paul says to walk in the same way as you first received him. When our relationship is back to that moment by moment trust in Jesus life become a thrill ride of adventure and fun as we are just hanging on to Him at every turn!

Vs. 7 Next Paul gives us four ways to test if we are in a “*faith walk*” with Jesus:

1. **Rooted**: *Rooted* is an agricultural word. The tense of the Greek word means “*once and for all having been rooted.*” Christians are not to be tumbleweeds that have no roots and are blown about by “*every wind of doctrine*” (Eph.). Nor are they to be “*transplants*” that are repeatedly moved from soil to soil. Once we are rooted by faith in Christ, there is no need to change the soil!
Roots have two functions: Draw up the nourishment so that the tree can grow and give it strength and stability.
2. **Built up**: *Built up* is an architectural term. It is in the present tense: “*being built up.*” Trusting Christ to save us puts us on the foundation where we can grow in grace. Paul uses the phrase “*as you have been taught*”. It is the Word of God that builds the Child of God.

3. **Established**: Trust is what we put to work in every situation and circumstance. As such to make spiritual progress means to keep adding to the temple to the glory of God.
4. **Abounding in it with thanksgiving**: The word *abounding* suggests the picture of a river overflowing its banks. The sad truth is that far too many have only stuck their big toe in the Water of the Word instead of being in over their head. A thankful life is a mark of Christian maturity, one that will not easily be led astray.

III. Vs. 8 Teaching your horse to spit

Vs. 8 Paul tells reveals two things about false teachers:

1. **Outcome**: What will happen to us if we buy what these charlatans are peddling as he says “*Beware lest anyone CHEAT you.*” The word “*cheat*” is literally “*kidnap*” “*taken hostage*”; the word implies **a loss of freedom**. The outcome of spiritual deception and false teaching is to limit our glorious liberty in Christ. These bored believers had been kidnapped by false teachers and now they were bound by works; **forced into trying to obtain the promises in Christ that were already theirs by faith!** Today we see folks “*trying to teach their spiritual horse to spit*” by going door to door hoping to inherit the earth by getting folk’s to become just like them by not taking blood transfusions, celebrating birthday’s or saluting the flag. Other’s tell you how much of your money you have to give to get a temple recommend and that you have to serve a mission for two years to become a god one day and populate your own planet.

2. **Weapon**: Most of these false teachers aren't using weapons of violence as in Islam; instead they use something as seemingly benign as "*philosophy*" which is the Greek word that means "*the love of wisdom*". Not all that passes its self-off as wisdom is truly wisdom that produces freedom! Paul goes on to tell his readers **two ways you can determine if the "*philosophy*" is true or not**:
- a. **Empty**: The word he uses here means "*hollow*" thus it lacked content or had no basis in reality. Most false teaching has no logic to it; instead it's just an illusion, pure fantasy, made up by someone to seduce folks that will take it at face value. I've been very candid about my early spiritual journey, how I tried lots of "*spiritual horse spitting*" but every time I went further I was told I couldn't look any further and that was always the time I was out of there. Only in Christ am I invited to continue to "*taste and see that He is good*" only in the Bible am I told to "*study to show my self, approved*."
- b. **Exploits**: The 2nd thing Paul mentions about these false teachings is that they all exploit the follower. **Deception and exploitation are always the bottom line with these false teachings**. To determine if a philosophy is deceptive and exploitive would require a person to have to be in it and looking at it for some time which is in its self, dangerous to our freedom. So Paul offers **three characteristics of false philosophies**:
1. *Depends upon the traditions of men*: Paul is addressing religious traditions that become popular and widespread, that get pushed onto succeeding generations. Paul would write elsewhere of endless geologies, special holy days and practices. Recently I had a lady call me to ask a few questions about

this fellowship. She wanted to know if we took communion every week and I told her it was offered every week and that we participated in the Lord's Supper corporately once a month. She was fine with that then she asked if we recited the Lord's Prayer. I tried to get her to explain what she meant by that then told her that we pray often during our time together but would only recite the Lord's Prayer when we were in that passage of scripture and she hung up on me. That's the thing about "*traditions of men*" they tend to make a person "*Feel Holy*" but they do nothing to cause them to "*Act Holy*"! There are a lot of traditions that the church has placed in practice that has nothing to do with what Jesus said or did and are nothing more than man made.

2. *Depends upon the principles of the world*: The word "*principles*" means "*things in a row*" and became associated with the ABC's of things. But it was also a word that was used to speak of ranks in a military. This seems to speak of the enemy behind these principles. Satan is a liar from the beginning and because of this these "*principles*" arise out of the thinking of man and get a foothold into society. Such as Darwinism, the theory that evolved into a fact a lot quicker than primordial ooze grew a tail and legs. Soon everybody believed the "*millions and millions of years*" until a few years later it became "*billions and billions of years*". Adaptation becomes evidence of evolution simply because rabbits in the snow with dark fur got eaten by fox and wolves leaving only white coated rabbits. In evolution the only thing that is becoming extinct is truth while the lie of evolution continues to evolve. There are many

principles of the world that end up being little more than urban legends and myths.

3. *Denies the person and work of Christ:* The final characteristic of a false philosophy is that it **always seeks to demote Jesus and our need for Him.** Any teaching or doctrine that makes Jesus greater and me less is probably correct. But with false teaching that they want to strip Jesus of His deity, or make man equal to His deity. Sometimes they want to diminish His sacrifice or take it away all together by saying He died but didn't raise to life. Or that He didn't die on a cross He died on a stake.