

Colossians – Chapter Two:B

Polemic – an argument or controversial discussion (grk: polemos –war); polemical – of or involving dispute; controversial; intended to maintain an opinion or system in opposition to others. The text from Colossians 2-4-3:4 is a polemic in favor of the church and true doctrine. It argues against all false ideas, teachings, systems that are contrary to the gospel and to true doctrine about Christ Jesus the Lord.

v.4-8 –Paul warns them not to be seduced and tricked by persuasive speeches, which seem plausible but are false. v.5 he rejoices and takes note of their “order” (this is a military term indicating an orderly array of disciplined soldiers. Paul often uses military terms, which underlines the idea that we war against the power and deceit of the kingdom of darkness) Their ranks were intact although being attacked by Gnostics. Steadfastness, another military term signifying solidity, firm and true in Christ. As ye have received Christ Jesus the Lord so walk ye in him: Historical Jesus in his actual humanity (Docetic Gnostics); and the identity of Christ with this historical Jesus (Cerinthian Gnostics)Live accordingly. Rooted, Builtup, Stablished in the faith, Abounding with thanksgiving. v.8 – Beware lest any man spoil (carry away captive, like a prisoner of war, placing you into spiritual slavery) through PHILOSOPHY, (I Timothy 6:20 names Gnostics) VAIN DECEIT (empty, devoid of truth, high sounding nothing), TRADITION OF MEN (foolish theories of the Gnostics) RUDIMENTS OF THE WORLD (ritualistic and materialistic, elementary, immature) And not after the things of CHRIST.

v.9 –FOR IN HIM DWELLETH ALL THE FULLNESS OF THE GODHEAD BODILY. In his BODY dwelled all the fullness of DIETY. He was fully man and fully God.

v.10 – And ye are COMPLETE IN HIM

v.11 – circumcised with circumcision made without hands (spiritual), v. 12 – buried with him in baptism (spiritual burial), and risen with him THROUGH FAITH in God’s work (in new life), v. 13 and the Lord has made us alive forgiving all our trespasses. V.14 Completely erasing the handwritten document listing all our sins, the certificate of debt, the indictment drawn up against every prisoner. In the East a bond is cancelled by nailing it to the post. Our bond of guilt was nailed to HIS cross.