

The remainder of this chapter will deal with warnings against false teachings

I. False Philosophy (8-15)

Hollow Philosophy: According to...

- Human Tradition
- Elemental Spirits of the World\*

\*May refer to:

-Basic religious teachings of Jews and Gentiles

-Material parts of the universe (such as water, earth, and fire)

-Spiritual beings (such as angels or evil spirits)

Not According to...

- Christ

The true circumcision  
 \*of the heart  
 \*Rom 2:25-29  
 \*Phi 3:3  
 \*Col 2:11-13  
 \*Lev 26:41  
 \*Deut 10:16; 30:6  
 \*Jer 4:4  
 \*Ezek 44:7

In Christ, God causes us to be resurrected from spiritual death, just as Jesus was resurrected from physical death.

By the standard of God's laws, anyone who sins deserves to die  
 -Rom 1:28-32  
 -Gal 3:10 (Hab 2:4)

## Study of Colossians – Colossians 2:6-15

### Bellevue Church of Christ – Fall 2013

2:4 - "I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments"

6 **Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him**

II Tim 2:3-5

7 <sup>[1]</sup>rooted and <sup>[2]</sup>built up **in him** and <sup>[3]</sup>established in the faith, just as you were taught, <sup>[4]</sup>abounding in thanksgiving.

8 See to it that no one takes you captive by **philosophy** and **empty deceit**, according to **human tradition**, according to the **elemental spirits of the world**, and not according to **Christ**.

9 **For in him** the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,

10 and you have been **filled in him**, who is the head of all rule and authority.

Rom 8:1-5

11 **In him** also you were **circumcised** with a circumcision made **without hands**, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision **of Christ**,

12 having been **buried with him** in **baptism**, in which you were also **raised with him** through **faith** in the powerful working of God, who **raised him** from the **dead**.

13 And you, who were **dead** in your **trespasses** and the **uncircumcision** of your flesh, God made **alive** together **with him**, having **forgiven us all our trespasses**,

14 by **canceling the record of debt** that stood against us with its **legal demands**. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

Eph 6:10-12

15 He disarmed the **rulers and authorities** and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them **in him**.

#### Our walk with Christ:

- (1) **Rooted:** ριζομαι (rhizomai)  
-Perfect Tense  
-Psa 1; Eph 2:20
- (2) **Built Up:** εποικοδομεω (epoikodomeō)  
-Present Tense
- (3) **Established:** βεβαιομαι (bebaioomai)  
-Present Tense  
-Strengthened (NIV)
- (4) **Abounding:** περισεευω (perisseuō)  
-Present Tense  
-Col 3:15-17; 4:2

#### Whole Fullness of Deity

-Col 1:15-23

-An exact imprint of the Father (Heb 1:3; John 1:1)

-The incarnation of the Father (John 1:14, Phil 2:6-7)

-Since God is completely present in Christ (1:19), Christ is both complete and sufficient for the Colossians.

Compare vv.11-15 with:  
 Rom 6:2-10 & Eph 2:1-10

What did Paul assume about these Christians? Why?



#### Baptism is Essential!

Acts 9:1-19; 22:1-16

The conversion of Paul

-Consider these questions:

- (1) Did he have a dramatic experience? (9:3)
- (2) Did he fast during those three days? (9:9)
- (3) Did he pray during those three days? (9:11)
- (4) Did he believe in Jesus? (9:5)
- (5) When were his sins washed away? (9:18; 22:16)

**Study of Colossians – Colossians 2:6-15**  
**Bellevue Church of Christ – Fall 2013**

**As You Received Christ**

**2 Timothy 2:3–5 (ESV)**

<sup>3</sup> Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. <sup>4</sup> No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. <sup>5</sup> An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.

**Our Walk with Christ**

**Perfect Tense** — The verb tense used by the writer to describe a completed verbal action that occurred in the past but which produced a state of being or a result that exists in the present (in relation to the writer). The emphasis of the perfect is not the past action so much as it is as such but the present “state of affairs” resulting from the past action.<sup>1</sup>

**Present Tense** — The verb tense where the writer portrays an action in process or a state of being with no assessment of the action’s completion.<sup>2</sup>

**Rooted** – Verb, **Perfect**, Passive, Participle, Plural, Nominative, Masculine

**4845** ῥιζόομαι (*rhizoomai*), ῥιζόω (*rhizoō*): vb.; ≡ Str 4492; TDNT 6.990—LN 74.18 **be strengthened**, formally, rooted (Eph 3:17; Col 2:7+)<sup>3</sup>

**Psalm 1 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Blessed is the man  
    who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,  
nor stands in the way of sinners,  
    nor sits in the seat of scoffers;  
<sup>2</sup> but his delight is in the law of the LORD,  
    and on his law he meditates day and night.  
<sup>3</sup> ***He is like a tree***  
    ***planted by streams of water***  
***that yields its fruit in its season,***  
    ***and its leaf does not wither.***  
***In all that he does, he prospers.***  
<sup>4</sup> The wicked are not so,  
    but are like chaff that the wind drives away.  
<sup>5</sup> Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,  
    nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;  
<sup>6</sup> for the LORD knows the way of the righteous,  
    but the way of the wicked will perish.

---

<sup>1</sup> Heiser, M. S., & Setterholm, V. M. (2013; 2013). *Glossary of Morpho-Syntactic Database Terminology*. Logos Bible Software.

<sup>2</sup> Heiser, M. S., & Setterholm, V. M. (2013; 2013). *Glossary of Morpho-Syntactic Database Terminology*. Logos Bible Software.

<sup>3</sup> Swanson, J. (1997). *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)*. Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

**Study of Colossians – Colossians 2:6-15**  
**Bellevue Church of Christ – Fall 2013**

**Ephesians 2:20 (ESV)**

<sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,

**Built Up** – Verb, **Present**, Passive, Participle, Plural, Nominative, Masculine

**2224** ἐποικοδομέω (*epoikodomeō*): vb.; ≡ Str 2026; TDNT 5.147—**1.** LN 45.5 **build upon**, make a foundation of a building (1Co 3:10, 12, 14; Eph 2:20+; 1Pe 2:5 v.r. NA26); **2.** LN 74.15 **make more able**, build up, strengthen (Col 2:7; Jude 20+; Ac 20:32 v.r. TR)<sup>4</sup>

**Established** – Verb, **Present**, Passive, Participle, Plural, Nominative, Masculine

**1011** βεβαίω (*bebaioō*), βεβαίωμα (*bebaioōmai*): vb.; ≡ Str 950; TDNT 1.600—**1.** LN 31.91 **cause to believe**, establish a belief (2Co 1:21+; Mk 16:20 v.r.), for another interp, see next; **2.** LN 28.44 **verify**, cause something to be known as certain (Ro 15:8; 1Co 1:6; Heb 2:3+; Mk 16:20 v.r.), for another interp, see prior; **3.** LN 74.17 (dep.) **increase in inner strength**, implying greater firmness of character (1Co 1:8; Col 2:7; Heb 13:9+), note: there may be overlap in verses and entries. βεβαίως (*bebaiōs*): adv.—**firmly** (Heb 3:6 v.r.); not in LN<sup>5</sup>

**Abounding** – Verb, **Present**, Passive, Participle, Plural, Nominative, Masculine

**4355** περισσεύω (*perisseuō*): vb.; ≡ Str 4052; TDNT 6.58—**1.** LN 59.52 **be in abundance**, abound (2Co 1:5); **2.** LN 59.54 **provide in abundance** (Eph 1:8); **3.** LN 57.24 **have more than enough** (Lk 15:17); **4.** LN 78.31 **excessive**, a very great degree (Mt 5:20); **5.** LN 78.32 **cause to be more** (1Th 3:12); **6.** LN 65.47 **have greater advantage** (1Co 8:8)<sup>6</sup>

**Colossians 3:15–17 (ESV)**

<sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And **be thankful**. <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with **thankfulness** in your hearts to God. <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, **giving thanks** to God the Father through him.

**Colossians 4:2 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it **with thanksgiving**.

---

<sup>4</sup> Swanson, J. (1997). *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)*. Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

<sup>5</sup> Swanson, J. (1997). *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)*. Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

<sup>6</sup> Swanson, J. (1997). *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)*. Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

**Study of Colossians – Colossians 2:6-15**  
**Bellevue Church of Christ – Fall 2013**

**Whole Fullness of Deity**

**Colossians 1:15–23 (ESV)**

<sup>15</sup> He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. <sup>16</sup> For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup> And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup> And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. <sup>19</sup> For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup> and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

<sup>21</sup> And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, <sup>22</sup> he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, <sup>23</sup> if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

**Hebrews 1:3 (ESV)**

<sup>3</sup> He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

**John 1:1 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

**John 1:14 (ESV)**

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**Philippians 2:6–7 (ESV)**

<sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

**Filled in Him**

**Romans 8:1–5 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup> For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup> For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup> in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup> For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.

**Study of Colossians – Colossians 2:6-15**  
**Bellevue Church of Christ – Fall 2013**

**Parallel Passages**

**Romans 6:1–10 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup> By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? <sup>3</sup> Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup> We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

<sup>5</sup> For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup> We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup> For one who has died has been set free from sin. <sup>8</sup> Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup> We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. <sup>10</sup> For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God.

**Ephesians 2:1–10 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> And you were dead in the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup> in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— <sup>3</sup> among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. <sup>4</sup> But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— <sup>6</sup> and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

**Circumcision of the Heart**

**Romans 2:25-29 (ESV)**

<sup>25</sup> For circumcision indeed is of value if you obey the law, but if you break the law, your circumcision becomes uncircumcision. <sup>26</sup> So, if a man who is uncircumcised keeps the precepts of the law, will not his uncircumcision be regarded as circumcision? <sup>27</sup> Then he who is physically uncircumcised but keeps the law will condemn you who have the written code and circumcision but break the law. <sup>28</sup> For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. <sup>29</sup> But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God.

**Philippians 3:3 (ESV)**

<sup>3</sup> For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh—

**Study of Colossians – Colossians 2:6-15**  
**Bellevue Church of Christ – Fall 2013**

**Colossians 2:11-13 (ESV)**

<sup>11</sup> In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, <sup>12</sup> having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. <sup>13</sup> And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses,

**Leviticus 26:41 (ESV)**

<sup>41</sup> so that I walked contrary to them and brought them into the land of their enemies—if then their uncircumcised heart is humbled and they make amends for their iniquity,

**Deuteronomy 10:16 (ESV)**

<sup>16</sup> Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no longer stubborn.

**Deuteronomy 30:6 (ESV)**

<sup>6</sup> And the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.

**Jeremiah 4:4 (ESV)**

<sup>4</sup> Circumcise yourselves to the Lord; remove the foreskin of your hearts, O men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem; lest my wrath go forth like fire, and burn with none to quench it, because of the evil of your deeds.”

**Ezekiel 44:7 (ESV)**

<sup>7</sup> in admitting foreigners, uncircumcised in heart and flesh, to be in my sanctuary, profaning my temple, when you offer to me my food, the fat and the blood. You have broken my covenant, in addition to all your abominations.

**Necessity of Baptism**

**Acts 9:1-19 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest <sup>2</sup> and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup> Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. <sup>4</sup> And falling to the ground he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" <sup>5</sup> And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. <sup>6</sup> But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." <sup>7</sup> The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. <sup>8</sup> Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. <sup>9</sup> And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank. <sup>10</sup> Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." <sup>11</sup> And the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, <sup>12</sup> and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." <sup>13</sup> But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name." <sup>15</sup> But the Lord said to him,

**Study of Colossians – Colossians 2:6-15**  
**Bellevue Church of Christ – Fall 2013**

"Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. <sup>16</sup>For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." <sup>17</sup>So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." <sup>18</sup>And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; <sup>19</sup>and taking food, he was strengthened. For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus.

**Acts 22:1-16 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup>"Brothers and fathers, hear the defense that I now make before you."

<sup>2</sup>And when they heard that he was addressing them in the Hebrew language, they became even more quiet. And he said:

<sup>3</sup>"I am a Jew, born in Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated at the feet of Gamaliel according to the strict manner of the law of our fathers, being zealous for God as all of you are this day. <sup>4</sup>I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering to prison both men and women, <sup>5</sup>as the high priest and the whole council of elders can bear me witness. From them I received letters to the brothers, and I journeyed toward Damascus to take those also who were there and bring them in bonds to Jerusalem to be punished.

<sup>6</sup>"As I was on my way and drew near to Damascus, about noon a great light from heaven suddenly shone around me. <sup>7</sup>And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?' <sup>8</sup>And I answered, 'Who are you, Lord?' And he said to me, 'I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.' <sup>9</sup>Now those who were with me saw the light but did not understand the voice of the one who was speaking to me. <sup>10</sup>And I said, 'What shall I do, Lord?' And the Lord said to me, 'Rise, and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all that is appointed for you to do.' <sup>11</sup>And since I could not see because of the brightness of that light, I was led by the hand by those who were with me, and came into Damascus.

<sup>12</sup>"And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there, <sup>13</sup>came to me, and standing by me said to me, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight.' And at that very hour I received my sight and saw him. <sup>14</sup>And he said, 'The God of our fathers appointed you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear a voice from his mouth; <sup>15</sup>for you will be a witness for him to everyone of what you have seen and heard. <sup>16</sup>**And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.'**

How many days did Saul wait after he lost his sight?

- Did he have a dramatic experience? (v. 3)
- Did he fast during those three days? (v. 9)
- Did he pray during those three days? (v. 11)
- Did he believe in Jesus? (v. 5)
- When were his sins washed away? (v. 18; 22:16)

**Study of Colossians – Colossians 2:6-15**  
**Bellevue Church of Christ – Fall 2013**

**Legal Demands**

**Romans 1:28–32 (ESV)**

<sup>28</sup> And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. <sup>29</sup> They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, <sup>30</sup> slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, <sup>31</sup> foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. <sup>32</sup> Though they know God’s righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

**Galatians 3:10 (ESV)**

<sup>10</sup> For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.”

**Rulers and Authorities**

**Ephesians 6:10–12 (ESV)**

<sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. <sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. <sup>12</sup> *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.*