

VULNERABLE BY IGNORANCE

COLOSSIANS 2:8

How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)

BACKGROUND: There are at least four false teachings found in Colossians. They are philosophy, legalism, mysticism, and asceticism. See John MacArthur, The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: Colossians and Philemon, p.97. They all deny the sufficiency of Christ. Unfortunately, because they have the appearance of wisdom, ignorant participation results in entrapment.

BY PHILOSOPHY—This is not what we think of when we think of modern day philosophy. “The word referred to more than merely the academic discipline, but described any theory about God, the world, or the meaning of life.” The MacArthur Study Bible, Colossians 2:8 footnote. In a sense, every believer has a theory about God and they are betting their life that their theory is right. This is not a good bet! (**Colossians 2:8, fn 2:8, Colossians 2:18, 19, fn 2:18,[3rd], II Peter 2:1-3, fn 2:1, Matthew 24:11, fn 24:11, I Corinthians 1:17-31, fn 1:19**) *What are some unbiblical philosophies of today and how can they result in entrapment?*

BY TRADITION—“Just because people have believed something and handed it down through the years does not make it true. Tradition usually serves merely to perpetuate error.” MacArthur, p.101. Your faith must be based on the Word of God, not on tradition. (**Colossians 2:8, Mark 7:5-13, fn 7:8, 9, Isaiah 48:1, 2, fn 48:1, I Peter 1:18-21, fn 1:20**) *How has tradition helped or hindered your growth in Christ?*

BY ELEMENTARY PRINCIPLES—You have not learned everything you need to know in kindergarten! “Not *behaving*, but *believing*, is God’s way: *behaving follows believing!*” William R. Newell, Romans Verse By Verse, p. 234. (**Colossians 2:8, Colossians 2:20-23, fn 2:20-23[1st], Galatians 4:1-7, fn 4:5-7, I Corinthians 1:18-21, fn 1:19, Hebrew 5:11-6:6, fn 5:12-14, fn 5:14, fn 6:1, 2, fn 6:3, fn 6:4-6**) *How could knowing God’s way keep your family from being vulnerable by ignorance?*

According to this preparation how may we pray for you to be strengthened in your personal relationship with Jesus? How else may we pray for you?

