

Beware *Ray Stedman*

I. Introduction.

A. Text: Colossians 2:8-15.

B. This passage deals with the terrible problem of being deceived.

II. The Colossians are in danger of being held as a hostage to deceit.

A. The weapon that is useful to bring this about is philosophy, which is wisdom.

B. They are hollow and deceptive philosophies.

C. Three things to guard against hollow philosophies.

1. They arise out of the thinking of men--tradition.

2. They establish themselves as respectable.

3. They rest on the basic principles of this world.

III. Paul's answer.

A. Paul does not react negatively.

B. Paul reminds the Colossians of what they already know.

1. All the fullness of God dwells in Christ, and believers have Him—everything they need.

2. We have been circumcised in Christ.

a. This is a matter of the heart where we were exposed and our sinful nature was put off.

b. The true Christian has a completely new basis of life.

3. Sin has been dealt with in our relationship with God, and we only need to acknowledge it to benefit from it.

4. We are freed from demonic powers by the cross.

Application questions:

1. How does deception arise in the world?

2. How can we respond to deception as Paul did? What would be a less ideal way to respond in contrast?

3. What truths does Paul emphasize as essential? Which ones do you particularly need to be reminded of today? Explain.
