

Make Church a Part of Your Life

WEEKLY SERMONETTE

"Cheated"

By Pastor Jerry Cummings, Living Hope Fellowship

Col. 2:8-10... Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. 9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; 10 and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

If you've ever had someone cheat you out of something that was yours, you know that it is not a good feeling. Paul in this scripture is warning us not to be cheated from something very valuable. Back in the early days of exploration and the expansion of settlements in early America, native peoples were sometimes cheated of valuable resources. Land rights were traded for mere beads and trinkets. They lost something very valuable for something of minimal worth. In such cases, they willingly let go of their resources, but didn't fully realize what they were losing compared to their minor profit. They were "cheated". Likewise we are told in these verses not to allow ourselves to be cheated. We have something very valuable and there is an enemy who would like to get us to give this up for things of little true worth. What do we have of such worth? We have Christ. Consider the following verses.

Col. 1:19 For it pleased the Father that in Him all the full-

ness should dwell, Col. 1:27 To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Col. 2:3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and

knowledge. Col. 2:9-10 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; 10 and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

Having Jesus, we have an in-

comparable treasure. So what does the enemy use to cheat us, or to let go of the treasure?

In ch. 2, v.4 he warns us of people using persuasive words. We cannot always see through people's arguments, but if it leads us to something not centered or based on Christ, we must turn from it and cling to the treasure.

In Ch. 2, v. 8, he warns us against philosophy that is not based upon Christ. Again there is human reasoning that will lead us other directions than to Christ, but this is only the enemy attempting to cheat us of our true fulfillment in Jesus.

In ch.2, v18-19 he warns us of people who have proud revelations about things that again distract us away from the simplicity of Christ into things that are not the most valuable. In ch. 2. V. 20-23 he warns us of false systems of holiness which are based upon our obedience to outward fleshly rules and regulations instead of being founded on Christ as our righteousness and holiness.

Finally, in ch. 3 v. 5-9 he warns us of earthly attachments to sinful activities which can draw us away from a life of love and faith in Jesus.

Today let's take another look at our lives. What place does Jesus have? Is he our treasure, our delight, our trust? If not, where have we let our self be cheated? Lord bring us back to first love for You.



Fall is a fun season, the air is cooler, brightly colored leaves abound, trick-or treating brings lots of candy. It's a favorite season for some. Every season has its moments; every season has its needs. Our Creator knows our desires for all seasons; whatever we need, He is waiting for us to ask for His loving guidance; winter, spring, summer or fall. God controls the seasons – won't you let Him help you control your life? Visit your house of worship this season and seek God's loving help.

Weekly Scripture Reading

Micah 1.1-16	Micah 2.1-13	Micah 3.1-12	Micah 4.1-13	Micah 5.1-15	Micah 6.1-16	Micah 7.1-20
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