

Dangerous Threats (Pt. 2)

Colossians 2:18–19

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Pastor Wes – November 16th, 2025

Main Idea: Reject any, and all, Christ-*less* doctrines that threaten your Christian growth.

Outline: Paul warns us about three, dangerous threats

I. Threat One – Legalism (vv. 16–17)

II. Threat Two – Mysticism (vv. 18–19)

- A. A Clear Command (v. 18)
- B. The Mystical Criteria (v. 18)
 - 1. Self-Abasement
 - 2. Worship of Angels
 - 3. Visionary Experiences
- C. The Stinging Critique (vv. 18-19)
 - 1. Mysticism leads one to spiritual pride
 - 2. Mysticism leads one to reject Christ

1. In your own words, what is “mysticism,” and how does it contrast to legitimate Christian experience?

2. Why is the pursuit of mystical teaching such a dangerous threat to the Christian life?

3. According to v. 18, false teachers were telling the Christians in Colosse they didn’t qualify for the prize because they hadn’t partaken in certain experiences. Explain why these are a poor standard for spiritual maturity? Instead, what should serve as the true rubric for Christian growth?



4. It would seem that the Colossians were being told they needed to turn to angels for protection and as the channel through which to approach God. What is the proper way to access God (cf. Eph 2:17–18)? Also, explain how this truth applies to the Roman Catholic doctrine of worshiping Mary and the Saints.
5. What might be a way someone “takes a stand on” or “goes on in detail about” a visionary experience today? What should we “take a stand” on instead?
6. As you look at your life, who/what are you pursuing? Are you pursuing Christ or an experience? How can you tell?
7. Look at Isaiah 66:2. What is a chief characteristic of the humble man or woman of God?
8. What does it look like to “hold fast to Christ” day by day?
9. What importance does the local body have to play in our spiritual growth? Note the “joints and ligaments” language in Col 2:19.

