

Don't Be Taken Captive! (Pt. 1)

Colossians 2:8

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Pastor Wes – September 21, 2025

Passage: “See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.”

Main Idea: Don't Be Taken Captive by deceptive and enslaving false teaching.

Outline:

- I. By Spotting Error (v. 8)
 - A. It's Enslaving
 - B. It's Empty
 - C. It's Deceptive
 - D. It's Man-Centered
 - E. It's World-Centered
 - G. It's NOT Christ-Centered

1. What's the problem with warnings? Do we normally pay attention to warnings that we hear in everyday life. Based on this passage and Acts 20:24 and 2 Tim. 3:1-7, what are the primary warnings for the believer for this day and age? How concerned should we be with these warnings and other like warnings in Scripture.
2. Why does Paul use the present tense command in Col. 2:8 in his warning? (1 Tim. 6:12; Col. 2:20; Gal. 4:3) What does this inform us about the relentlessness of error? (cf. Matthew 26:41)
3. List ways the “philosophy” of the world differs from the teachings gleaned from God's Word (the *according to's* in v. 8).
4. The word “captive” is a special word in this passage intended to serve as an attention getter. Describe how erroneous teaching “captivates” its followers. What does it enslave us to?



5. Slavery to false doctrine is not something that happens overnight. What are the desires of the heart that lead someone down the road to captivity? (see the five desires mentioned in the sermon)
6. What are some of the methods by which false teachers deceive? Is there one method which seems to be more prevalent in our world than others?
7. Describe the quote, "Satan is so deceptive! He likes to borrow Christian vocabulary, but he does not use the Christian dictionary!" (Dr. Warren Wiersbe) How do false teachers take words and concepts that many are familiar with, but twist the meaning just enough so that it does not conform to the true teaching of God's Word?
8. Discuss ways we can respond wrongly to the warning in this passage?
9. Explain why a constant time in the word of God is needed for escaping the snare of "empty, deceptive philosophy". How can you grow more faithful in your personal devotion time?
10. Explain why being committed to a healthy local church is needed in the fight against error? How can we lovingly help one another in the church to stay on guard against error?
11. Look at 2 Corinthians 10:3–5. Not only are Christians to be on the defensive but also on the offensive. In what ways, can you prepare yourself to take the "lofty thoughts" of the world captive to Christ?

