

1. Tonight we will begin our study of the Book of Colossians by way of the Doctrine of False Communicators. Before we resume let's remember the application of 1Jo 1:9 as may or may not be necessary.
2. Last week I exegeted Col 2:4 and then began a review of what the Bible has to say about false communicators.
3. Tonight I want to review some of that learned and then pick-up with new material at point 5.2.5 on page 2.
4. Let's first take a look at an expanded translation of Col 2:1-4.

Col 2:1 For you see I most certainly want you to know what severe difficulties I have experienced on behalf of those of you in Colossae, Laodicea and all of you living in the Lychus Valley who have never met me personally;

Col 2:2 In order that you might be encouraged, knit together and united in love by means of Agape in order that you may have the full riches of all spiritual wealth with its many certainties provided by the full understanding and application of the varied and many mysteries of Christ our God;

Col 2:3 in Whom are hidden all the treasures, wherein lies spiritual insight, stored on the launching pad; this doctrine forms a series of building blocks providing even more insight.

Col 2:4 The things just written are provided in order that the many false teachers abounding in the Lychus Valley will not deceive you with enticing words and false teachings.

5. The Doctrine of False Communicators.

5.1 The Scriptures are replete with teachings about false communicators called: false prophets, wolves in sheep clothing, satan's ministers, wells without water, hireling prophets, profane and vain babblers.

5.1.1 False Prophets - Jer 14:14; Mat 7:15; Mat 24:11; Mat 24:24; Mar 13:22
Luk 6:26; 2Pe 2:1; 1Jo 4:1

5.1.2 Wolves In Sheep's Clothing - Mat 10:16; Luk 10:3; Acts 20:29

5.1.3 Satan's Ministers - 2Co 11:2-15

5.1.4 Wells Without Water - 2Pe 2:17-22

5.1.5 Hirelings - Joh 10:12-13

5.1.6 Profane and Vain Babblers - 1Ti 6:20; 2Ti 2:16

5.2 A few Old Testament examples:

5.2.1 Satan convinced one-third of the angels to follow him in his rebellion and terrible act of pride. Isa 14:12-13 and Rev 12:4

5.2.2 Satan was a deft false communicator when he possessed the snake, a creature originally created as a thing of beauty but later cursed to its present state because of his seduction of Eve. Gen 3:1-6

5.2.3 Satan was also a major player in the slaying of Abel. Gen 4:2-8; Joh 8:44

5.2.4 There were probably false communicators who no doubt tried to dissuade Noah in building the ark. As Donald Grey Barnhouse has written in his book entitled Genesis:

"We must realize it had never rained upon the earth. Rain was one of the things not seen as yet. What a fool Noah must have seemed to those who lived around him, when he warned of a change in nature that was one of the greatest in geological history."

5.2.5 There were false communicators who rose up against Moses.

Exo 17:2 Wherefore the people did chide with Moses, and said, Give us water that we may drink. And Moses said unto them, Why chide ye with me? wherefore do ye tempt the LORD?

Exo 17:3 And the people thirsted there for water; and the people murmured against Moses, and said, Wherefore is this that thou hast brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our cattle with thirst?

Exo 17:4 And Moses cried unto the LORD, saying, What shall I do unto this people? they be almost ready to stone me.

Exo 17:5 And the LORD said unto Moses, Go on before the people, and take with thee of the elders of Israel; and thy rod, wherewith thou smotest the river, take in thine hand, and go.

Exo 17:6 Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.

Num 16:1 Korah son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, and certain Reubenites--Dathan and Abiram, sons of Eliab, and On son of Peleth--became insolent Num 16:2 and rose up against Moses. With them were 250 Israelite men, well-known community leaders who had been appointed members of the council.

Num 16:3 They came as a group to oppose Moses and Aaron and said to them, "You have gone too far! The whole community is holy, every one of them, and the LORD is with them. Why then do you set yourselves above the LORD'S assembly?"

Num 16:4 When Moses heard this, he fell facedown.

Num 16:5 Then he said to Korah and all his followers: "In the morning the LORD will

show who belongs to him and who is holy, and he will have that person come near him. The man he chooses he will cause to come near him.

Num 16:6 You, Korah, and all your followers are to do this: Take censers

Num 16:7 and tomorrow put fire and incense in them before the LORD. The man the LORD chooses will be the one who is holy. You Levites have gone too far!"

Num 16:8 Moses also said to Korah, "Now listen, you Levites!

Num 16:9 Isn't it enough for you that the God of Israel has separated you from the rest of the Israelite community and brought you near himself to do the work at the LORD'S tabernacle and to stand before the community and minister to them?

Num 16:10 He has brought you and all your fellow Levites near himself, but now you are trying to get the priesthood too.

Num 16:11 It is against the LORD that you and all your followers have banded together. Who is Aaron that you should grumble against him?"

Num 16:12 Then Moses summoned Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab. But they said, "We will not come!

5.2.6 Aaron could not handle the Exodus generation in Moses' absence. He became a false communicator by default, forsaking his "responsibilities as High Priest."

Exo 32:1 When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, "Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him."

Exo 32:2 Aaron answered them, "Take off the gold earrings that your wives, your sons and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me."

Exo 32:3 So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron.

Exo 32:4 He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt."

Exo 32:5 When Aaron saw this, he built an altar in front of the calf and announced, "Tomorrow there will be a festival to the LORD."

Exo 32:6 So the next day the people rose early and sacrificed burnt offerings and presented fellowship offerings. Afterward they sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry.

5.2.7 In Numbers chapters 22 through 25 we find the terrible example of Balaam. So evil was this man, he became the New Testament example for all false teachers; especially those with improper motivations.

Jude 11 Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the disobedience of Korah.

Jude 12 These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots;

Rev 2:12 And to the angel of the church in Pergamos (300-800 A. D.) write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges . . .

Rev 2:14 But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.

5.2.8 Isaiah who ministered to Judah during the 8th century B.C. was opposed by false communicators of the Egyptian Party.

Isa 30:1 Woe to the rebellious children, saith the LORD, that take counsel, but not of me; and that cover with a covering, but not of my spirit, that they may add sin to sin:
Isa 30:2 That walk to go down into Egypt, and have not asked at my mouth; to strengthen themselves in the strength of Pharaoh, and to trust in the shadow of Egypt!
Isa 30:3 Therefore shall the strength of Pharaoh be your shame, and the trust in the shadow of Egypt your confusion.

5.2.9 Jeremiah was resisted by many false teachers during his 7th century ministry to Judah.

Jer 43:1 And it came to pass, that when Jeremiah had made an end of speaking unto all the people all the words of the LORD their God, for which the LORD their God had sent him to them, even all these words,
Jer 43:2 Then spake Azariah the son of Hoshaiiah, and Johanan the son of Kareah, and all the proud men, saying unto Jeremiah, Thou speakest falsely: the LORD our God hath not sent thee to say, Go not into Egypt to sojourn there:
Jer 43:3 But Baruch the son of Neriah setteth thee on against us, for to deliver us into the hand of the Chaldeans, that they might put us to death, and carry us away captives into Babylon.
Jer 43:4 So Johanan the son of Kareah, and all the captains of the forces, and all the people, obeyed not the voice of the LORD, to dwell in the land of Judah.

5.2.10 Malachi was opposed primarily by the priest of the land. They were rebuked for falsely communicating God's Word.

Mal 2:1 "And now this admonition is for you, O priests.
Mal 2:2 If you do not listen, and if you do not set your heart to honor my name," says the LORD Almighty, "I will send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings. Yes, I have already cursed them, because you have not set your heart to honor me.
Mal 2:3 "Because of you I will rebuke your descendants; I will spread on your faces the offal from your festival sacrifices, and you will be carried off with it.
Mal 2:4 And you will know that I have sent you this admonition so that my covenant with Levi may continue," says the LORD Almighty.
Mal 2:5 "My covenant was with him, a covenant of life and peace, and I gave them to him; this called for reverence and he revered me and stood in awe of my name.
Mal 2:6 True instruction was in his mouth and nothing false was found on his lips. He walked with me in peace and uprightness, and turned many from sin.
Mal 2:7 "For the lips of a priest ought to preserve knowledge, and from his mouth men should seek instruction--because he is the messenger of the LORD Almighty.
Mal 2:8 But you have turned from the way and by your teaching have caused many to

stumble; you have violated the covenant with Levi," says the LORD Almighty.
Mal 2:9 "So I have caused you to be despised and humiliated before all the people, because you have not followed my ways but have shown partiality in matters of the law."

5.2.11 Nehemiah was faced with numerous adversaries as he led the rebuilding of the city of Jerusalem. Several of these men made false accusations against the Jewish effort to rebuild the city plazas, walls and motes outside the wall.

Ezr 4:8 Rehum the chancellor and Shimshai the scribe wrote a letter against Jerusalem to Artaxerxes the king in this sort ...

Ezr 4:11 This is the copy of the letter that they sent unto him, even unto Artaxerxes the king; Thy servants the men on this side the river, and at such a time.

Ezr 4:12 Be it known unto the king, that the Jews which came up from thee to us are come unto Jerusalem, building the rebellious and the bad city, and have set up the walls thereof, and joined the foundations.

Ezr 4:13 Be it known now unto the king, that, if this city be builded, and the walls set up again, then will they not pay toll, tribute, and custom, and so thou shalt be without their revenue.

Ezr 4:14 Now since we are under obligation to the palace and it is not proper for us to see the king dishonored, we are sending this message to inform the king,

Ezr 4:15 so that a search may be made in the archives of your predecessors. In these records you will find that this city is a rebellious city, troublesome to kings and provinces, a place of rebellion from ancient times. That is why this city was destroyed.

5.3 There were numerous false communicators actively resisting our Lord during the Kingdom Age.

5.4 They were primarily the religious hierarchy consisting of the Scribes, Pharisees and Sadducees.

Mat 19:3 The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?

Mat 19:4 And he answered and said unto them, "Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female,"

Mat 19:5 "And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?"

Mat 19:6 "Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

Mat 19:7 They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away?

Mat 19:8 He saith unto them, "Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so."

Mat 16:1 The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came, and tempting desired him that he would shew them a sign from heaven.

Mat 16:2 He answered and said unto them, "When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red."

Mat 16:3 "And in the morning, It will be foul weather to day: for the sky is red. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?"

Mat 16:4 "A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas." And he left them, and departed.

Mar 11:15 On reaching Jerusalem, Jesus entered the temple area and began driving out those who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves,

Mar 11:16 and would not allow anyone to carry merchandise through the temple courts.

Mar 11:17 And as he taught them, he said, "Is it not written: "'My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations'? But you have made it 'a den of robbers.'"

Mar 11:18 The chief priests and the teachers of the law heard this and began looking for a way to kill him, for they feared him, because the whole crowd was amazed at his teaching.

Mat 15:1 Then came to Jesus scribes and Pharisees, which were of Jerusalem, saying,

Mat 15:2 Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread.

Mat 15:3 But he answered and said unto them, "Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?"

5.5 There have been and still are numerous false teachers abounding in the Church Age. As with false teachers of every age they are to be critiqued based on the content of their teaching.

5.5.1 There were false teachers in Corinth teaching there was no "bodily resurrection."

1Co 15:14 And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.

1Co 15:15 More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised.

1Co 15:16 For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either.

5.5.2 There were false teachers in Corinth who were critical of Paul's speech, devotion to grace and his appearance. It is interesting to note Paul says false teachers often are glib entertainers who have little substance. 2Co 11:1-33

2Co 11:1 I hope you will put up with a little of my foolishness; but you are already doing that.

2Co 11:2 I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him.

2Co 11:3 But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

2Co 11:4 For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we

preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough.

2Co 11:5 But I do not think I am in the least inferior to those "super-apostles."

2Co 11:6 I may not be a trained speaker, but I do have knowledge. We have made this perfectly clear to you in every way ...

2Co 11:12 And I will keep on doing what I am doing in order to cut the ground from under those who want an opportunity to be considered equal with us in the things they boast about.

2Co 11:13 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ ...

2Co 11:16 I repeat: Let no one take me for a fool. But if you do, then receive me just as you would a fool, so that I may do a little boasting . . .

2Co 11:20 In fact, you even put up with anyone who enslaves you or exploits you or takes advantage of you or pushes himself forward or slaps you in the face.

2Co 11:21 To my shame I admit that we were too weak for that! What anyone else dares to boast about--I am speaking as a fool--I also dare to boast about.

2Co 11:22 Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they Abraham's descendants? So am I.

2Co 11:23 Are they servants of Christ? (I am out of my mind to talk like this.) I am more. I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again . . .

2Co 11:28 Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches.

5.5.3 There were false teachers at Jerusalem who mixed Judaism and Christianity. Hebrews chapters 1-8.

End Lesson Taught 1-23-08