

1. Tonight we will continue 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. Earlier 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 5.6 on page 3.
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 - Jer 14:14; Mat 7:15; Mat 24:11; Mat 24:24; Mar 13:22  
Luk 6:26; 2Pe 2:1; 1Jo 4:1, wolves in sheep clothing - Mat 10:16; Luk 10:3; Acts 20:29, satan's ministers - 2Co 11:2-15, wells without water - 2Pe 2:17-22, hireling prophets - Joh 10:12-13 and 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.

5.2.5 There were false communicators who rose up against Moses. Exo 17:2-6 and Num 16:1-12

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 32:1-6

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 11-12; Rev 2:12 and 14

5.2.8 Isaiah who ministered to Judah during the 8th century B.C. was opposed by false communicators of the Egyptian Party. Isa 30:1-3

5.2.9 Jeremiah was resisted by many false teachers during his 7th century ministry to Judah. Jer 43:1-4

5.2.10 Malachi was opposed primarily by the priest of the land. They were rebuked for falsely communicating God's Word. Mal 2:1-9

5.2.11 Nehemiah was faced with numerous adversaries as he led the rebuilding of the city of Jerusalem. Ezzr 4:8-15

5.3 There were numerous false communicators actively resisting our Lord during the Kingdom Age. They were primarily the religious hierarchy consisting of the Scribes, Pharisees and Sadducees. Mat 19:3-8; 16:1-4; 15:1-3  
Mar 11:15-18

5.4 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. There were false teachers in Corinth teaching there was no "bodily resurrection." 1Co 15:14-16

5.5 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 11:1-28

5.6 There were false teachers at Jerusalem who mixed Judaism and Christianity. Hebrews chapters 1-8. Let me give you a few selected passages:

Heb 3:1 Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess.

Heb 3:2 He was faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Moses was faithful in all God's house.

Heb 3:3 Jesus has been found worthy of greater honor than Moses, just as the builder of a house has greater honor than the house itself.

Heb 3:4 For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything.

Heb 3:5 Moses was faithful as a servant in all God's house, testifying to what would be said in the future.

Heb 3:6 But Christ is faithful as a son over God's house. And we are his house, if we hold on to our courage and the hope of which we boast.

Heb 3:7 So, as the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you hear his voice,

Heb 3:8 do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion, during the time of testing in the desert,

Heb 3:9 where your fathers tested and tried me and for forty years saw what I did ...

Heb 4:8 For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken later about another day.

Heb 4:9 There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God;

Heb 4:10 for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his.

Heb 4:11 Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following their example of disobedience.

Heb 4:12 For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Heb 4:13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Heb 4:14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.

Heb 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin.

Heb 4:16 Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need ...

Heb 5:11 We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are slow to learn.

Heb 5:12 In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food!

Heb 5:13 Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness.

Heb 5:14 But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

Heb 7:12 For when there is a change of the priesthood, there must also be a change of the law.

Heb 7:13 He of whom these things are said belonged to a different tribe, and no one from that tribe has ever served at the altar.

Heb 7:14 For it is clear that our Lord descended from Judah, and in regard to that tribe Moses said nothing about priests.

Heb 7:15 And what we have said is even more clear if another priest like Melchizedek appears,

5.7 There were false teachers who came from Jerusalem to Galatia, particularly Antioch, to teach a doctrine of salvation and spirituality by faith and works. These legalist also taught false doctrine about circumcision which Paul successfully resisted.

Gal 2:1 Fourteen years later (just after the 1st missionary journey in about A.D. 50) I went up again to Jerusalem, this time with Barnabas. I took Titus along also.

Gal 2:2 I went in response to a revelation and set before them the gospel that I preach among the Gentiles. But I did this privately to those who seemed to be leaders, for fear that I was running or had run my race in vain.

Gal 2:3 Yet not even Titus, who was with me, was compelled to be circumcised, even though he was a Greek.

Gal 2:4 This matter arose because some false brothers had infiltrated our ranks to spy on the freedom we have in Christ Jesus and to make us slaves.

Gal 2:5 We did not give in to them for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might remain with you.

Gal 2:6 As for those who seemed to be important--whatever they were makes no difference to me; God does not judge by external appearance--those men added nothing to my message.

Gal 2:7 On the contrary, they saw that I had been entrusted with the task of preaching the gospel to the Gentiles, just as Peter had been to the Jews.

Gal 2:8 For God, who was at work in the ministry of Peter as an apostle to the Jews, was also at work in my ministry as an apostle to the Gentiles.

Gal 2:9 James, Peter and John, those reputed to be pillars, gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship when they recognized the grace given to me. They agreed that we should go to the Gentiles, and they to the Jews.

Gal 2:10 All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do.

Gal 2:11 When Peter came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he was clearly in the wrong.

Gal 2:12 Before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group.

Gal 2:13 The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray.

Gal 2:14 When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter in front of them all, "You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew.

How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?

Gal 2:15 "We who are Jews by birth and not 'Gentile sinners'

Gal 2:16 know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified.

Gal 2:17 "If, while we seek to be justified in Christ, it becomes evident that we ourselves are sinners, does that mean that Christ promotes sin? Absolutely not!

Gal 2:18 If I rebuild what I destroyed, I prove that I am a lawbreaker.

Gal 2:19 For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God.

Gal 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Gal 2:21 I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!"

Acts 15:1 Some men came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the brothers: "Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved."

Acts 15:2 This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them. So Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question.

Acts 15:3 The church sent them on their way, and as they traveled through Phoenicia and Samaria, they told how the Gentiles had been converted. This news made all the brothers very glad.

Acts 15:4 When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and elders, to whom they reported everything God had done through them.

Acts 15:5 Then some of the believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up and said, "The Gentiles must be circumcised and required to obey the law of Moses."

Acts 15:6 The apostles and elders met to consider this question.

Acts 15:7 After much discussion, Peter got up and addressed them: "Brothers, you know that some time ago God made a choice among you that the Gentiles might hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe.

Acts 15:8 God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us.

Act 15:9 He made no distinction between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith.

Acts 15:10 Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of the disciples a yoke that neither we nor our fathers have been able to bear?

Acts 15:11 No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are."

Acts 15:12 The whole assembly became silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the miraculous signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them.

Acts 15:13 When they finished, James spoke up: "Brothers, listen to me.

Acts 15:14 Simon has described to us how God at first showed his concern by taking from the Gentiles a people for himself.

Acts 15:15 The words of the prophets are in agreement with this, as it is written:

Acts 15:16 "After this I will return and rebuild David's fallen tent. Its ruins I will rebuild, and I will restore it,

Acts 15:17 that the remnant of men may seek the Lord, and all the Gentiles who bear my name, says the Lord, who does these things'

Acts 15:18 that have been known for ages.

Acts 15:19 "It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God.

Acts 15:20 Instead we should write to them, telling them to abstain from food polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood.

Acts 15:21 For Moses has been preached in every city from the earliest times and is read in the synagogues on every Sabbath."

Acts 15:22 Then the apostles and elders, with the whole church, decided to choose some of their own men and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. They chose Judas (called Barsabbas) and Silas, two men who were leaders among the brothers.

Acts 15:23 With them they sent the following letter: The apostles and elders, your brothers, To the Gentile believers in Antioch, Syria and Cilicia: Greetings.

Acts 15:24 We have heard that some went out from us without our authorization and disturbed you, troubling your minds by what they said.

Acts 15:25 So we all agreed to choose some men and send them to you with our dear friends Barnabas and Paul--

Acts 15:26 men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Acts 15:27 Therefore we are sending Judas and Silas to confirm by word of mouth what we are writing.

Acts 15:28 It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us not to burden you with anything beyond the following requirements:

Acts 15:29 You are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from sexual immorality. You will do well to avoid these things.

Farewell.

5.8 There were false teachers teaching post tribulation and partial tribulation theories of the rapture; they seem to abound in Thessalonica. 2Th 2:1-12.

2Th 2:1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,

2Th 2:2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ (*better manuscripts have Lord*) is at hand.

2Th 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

2Th 2:4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

2Th 2:5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

2Th 2:6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.

2Th 2:7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

2Th 2:8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

2Th 2:9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

2Th 2:10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

2Th 2:11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

2Th 2:12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

End Lesson Taught 1-30-08