

Colossians Series

Lesson #50

March 25, 2012

Dean Bible Ministries

www.deanbible.org

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A landscape photograph showing a field of trees in the foreground, a hill in the middle ground, and mountains in the background under a clear sky. The text is overlaid on the image.

COLOSSIANS: Jesus Christ is All-Sufficient

**“In Christ”:
Not Just a
Nice Theological Phrase
Colossians 2:20–23**

Enemies to the Truth (Then)

Dietary regulations

Day-observers

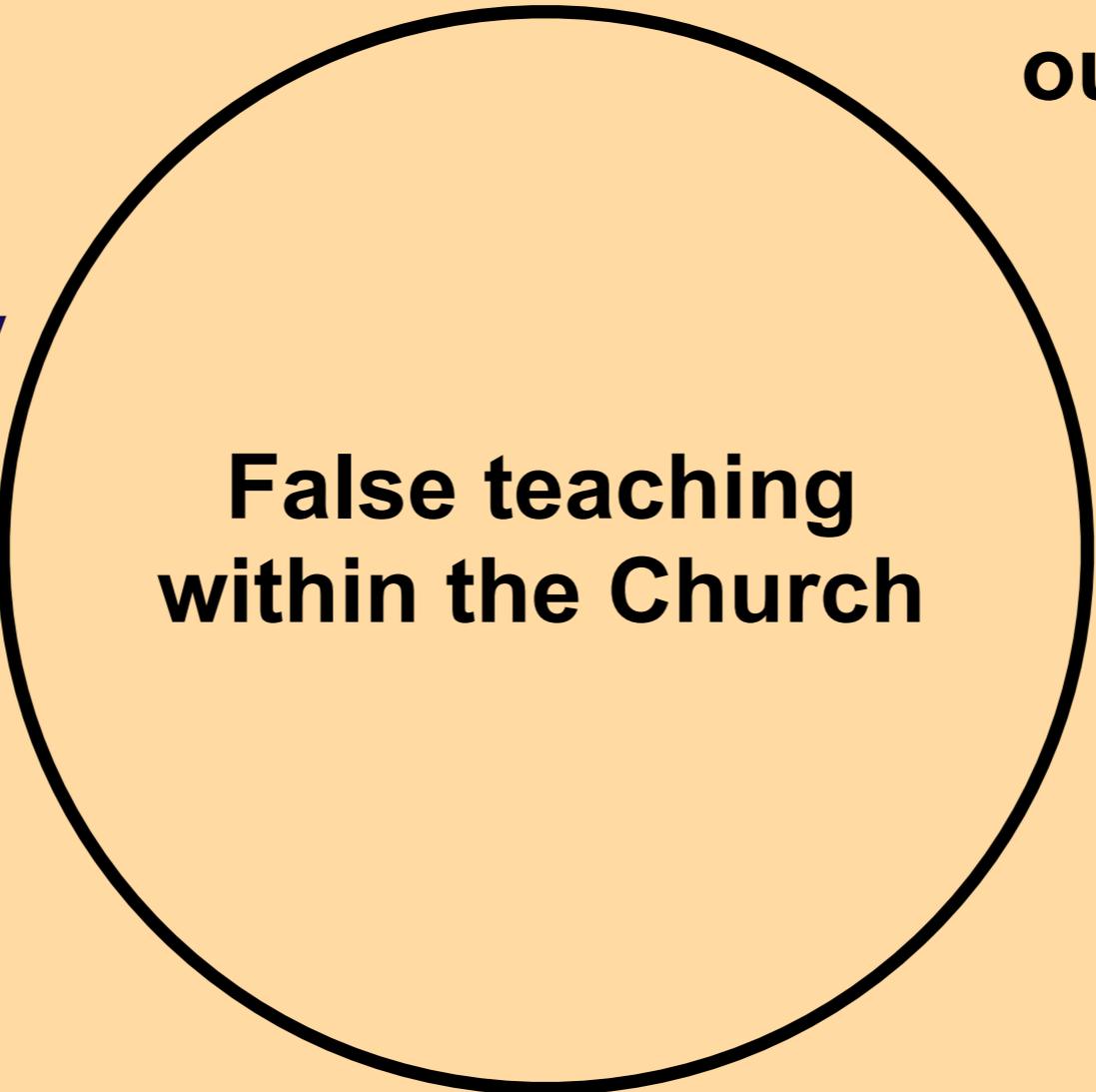
Pseudo-humility

**Worship of
angels**

**Emphasizing
visions**

Arrogant

**False teaching
outside the Church**



**False teaching
within the Church**

Enemies to the Truth (Now)

**Human intellectual
autonomy**

Evolution

Psycho-therapy

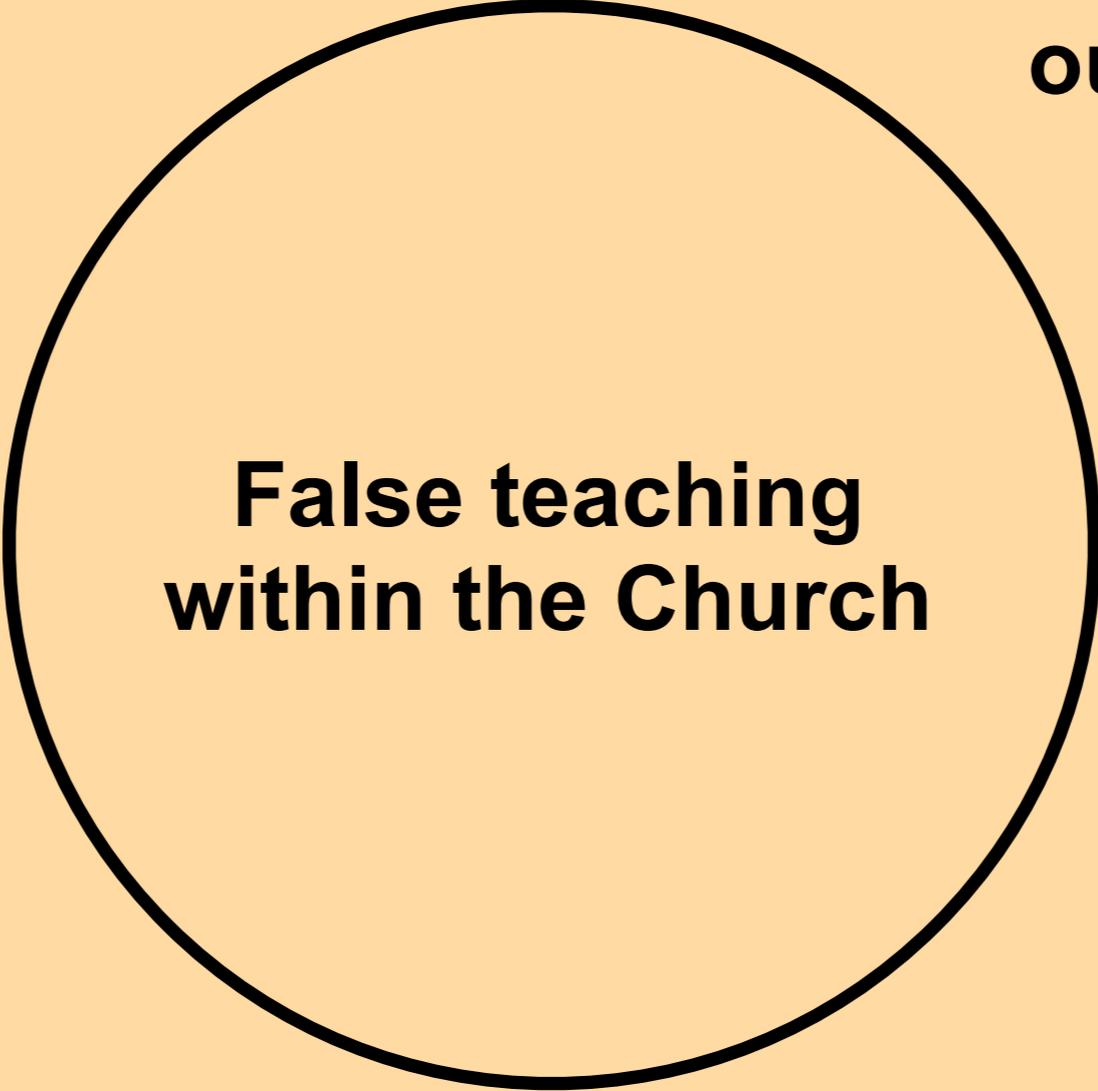
**Drugs/
Happiness**

Sociology

**Socialism,
Marxism,
Statism**

Social Engineering

**False teaching
outside the Church**



**False teaching
within the Church**



Biblical Christianity

Salvation through faith alone
in Christ alone

Judaism

Salvation through keeping
the OT Law

Merkebah mysticism

Essene mysticism (angel
worship)



Mystery Cults

Elysian mysteries,
Dionysian mysteries,
Salvation through esoteric,
not merely soteric knowledge

Angel worship



Greek Philosophy

Angel worship

Asceticism

Libertinism

The Colossian heresy:

A syncretism, or “Heinz 57” blend, of various ideas and teachings that did not openly reject Christ, but set Him up as only part of the solution which denied His sufficiency and preeminence

Col. 2:16, “Therefore let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths,

Col. 2:17, “which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.

Col. 2:18, “Let no one cheat you of your reward, [by] taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,

Col. 2:19, “and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase that is from God.”

1 Cor. 3:5, “Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one?”

1 Cor. 3:6, “I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.”

1 Cor. 3:7, “So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase.”

The Problem:

Seeking help for life's problems apart from Christ results in Spiritual Decapitation which cuts us off from the:

- **authority of Christ**
- **nourishment from Christ**
- **spiritual growth from Christ**
- **the strength of Christ (cf., Phil. 4:13)**
- **future rewards, privileges, and blessings in the kingdom.**

The Solution:

- **Understanding our position “In Christ” (Col. 2:10–11)**
- **Living in light of its reality**
- **Developing a mind-set based on reality (Col. 3:2)**
- **Actively “putting to death” sin in our life (Col. 3:5), and “putting off” these sins (Col. 3:8)**

Misconceptions and distortions:

- **Spiritual growth is inevitable to the one who is “truly” saved (the “Lordship,” Reformed option)**
- **A one-time decision indicated by a second event of dedication (some sort of magic bullet) (the “higher life,” Keswick, holiness-pentecostal option)**
- **Simply *doing* what the Bible says, without reference to the Holy Spirit (the morality, legalism option)**
- **The Holy Spirit communicates directly through me as to what I should do (the mysticism, asceticism option)**
- **I need to “crucify” self**

Col. 2:11, “In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ,

Col. 2:12, “buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.”

Col. 2:20, “Therefore, if you died with Christ ...”

Col. 3:1, “If then you were raised with Christ ...”

Col. 3:5, “Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth:”

Col. 3:8, “But now you yourselves are to put off all these”

Col. 3:10–11, “[because you] have put on the new man ... where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.”

Gal. 3:27, “For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Gal. 3:28, “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

Gal. 3:27, “For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Gal. 3:28, “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

ἐνδύω (*endyō*),

aor mid ind

dress, clothe;

“Putting on Christ” happens simultaneously with the Baptism of the Holy Spirit

(cf., Col. 3:10, in contrast to “put off” in Col. 3:8, 3:9)

Col. 3:8, “But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.

Col. 3:9, “Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds,”

3:8

**ἀποτίθημι *apotithēmi*
aor mid impera 2 plur
to put off, away**

3:9

**ἀπεκδύομαι *apekduomai*
aor mid part masc plur nom
to take off; remove clothing, to disarm
causal – because you have already removed**

Col. 2:20, “Therefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations—

Col. 2:21, “ ‘Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle,’

Col. 2:22, “which all concern things which perish with the using—according to the commandments and doctrines of men?

Col. 2:23, “These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.”

Col. 2:20, “Therefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations—”

Rom. 6:3, “Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?”

Rom. 6:4, “Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”