

Lesson 78 Answers and Comments

Circumcised	outward	flesh
Cannot	flesh	circumcision
Saved	Jew	Christ
Circumcised	inwardly	old
Token	circumcision	man
Covenant	heart	crucified
Sign	spirit	body
Seal	letter	sin
Nations	men	destroyed
Abraham	God	crucified
Fruitful	avail	Christ
Kings	fair	have
Everlasting	flesh	put
Land	circumcise	off
Everlasting	keep	old
Cut	law	man
Off	Moses	his
Mouth	circumcised	deeds
Lips	debtor	circumcision
Removed	whole	
Heart	law	
Far	circumcised	
Purpose	keep	
Sacrifices	law	
Vain	circumcised	
Jew	circumcision	
Outwardly	without	
Circumcision	hands	

Dear friend, our standing before God is perfect only as we have been made the very righteousness of God in Christ. God bestows this on “him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.”

God does not enter into a merit arrangement with the saved whereby we must produce or do something to gain acceptance.

Lesson 79 Beware of Philosophy

Col. 2:8 “Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.”

There are four areas for the believer to beware of in this verse. These four present pitfalls for the believer even today.

The result of falling into any of these pitfalls would be that of being spoiled. Spoiled – to take from.

I Sam. 17:53, “And the children of Israel returned from chasing after the Philistines, and they _____ their _____.”

Num. 31:11, “And they _____ all the _____, and all the prey, both of men and of beasts.”

Do believers have things that can be taken away.

We are told in Rom. 10:12 “For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is _____ unto all that call upon him.”

II Cor. 8:9, “For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be _____.”

Eph. 1:7, “In whom we have redemption through his blood, the _____ of _____, according to the _____ of his grace.”

Rom. 8:32, “He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him _____ us _____?”

Eph. 3:8, “...that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable _____ of Christ;”

Phil. 4:13, “But my God shall supply all your need according to his _____ in _____ by Christ Jesus.”

Col. 1:27, “To whom God would make known what is the _____ of the _____ of this _____ among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:”

Col. 2:2, “...and unto _____ of the full _____ of _____, to the _____ of the _____ of God, and of the Father, and of Christ:”

Are you beginning to have just a small appreciation of your riches? I hope you noticed that Christ is directly related to all our riches.

Col. 2:3, “In whom (Christ) are _____ all the _____ of wisdom and knowledge.”

In Christ alone is where God has hid all the jewels, wealth, and riches of His wisdom.

To have Christ is to have the whole storehouse of the riches of God. That is why Paul says in “Phil. 3:10, “That I may _____...” Paul’s burning desire was to know Christ. Everything is found in Him! All of God’s provisions are invested in Christ.

Lesson 79 Continued

Col. 2:10, "And ye are _____ in _____, which is the head of all principality and power."

If we were to try and make a list of all the riches we have in Christ we would be here for all eternity. And what better way for us to spend our time!

Eph. 1:3, says that we have been blessed with _____ in heavenly places.

In Eph. 2:7 God says that for all eternity He is going to "...shew the _____ of his _____ in his kindness toward us through _____."

When we have "earthly riches" we try to protect them. We put them in a bank, safety deposit box, behind locked doors, up high on a shelf, in a safe, etc. We are very conscious of guarding our earthly treasures. We don't want robbers to make off with our goods.

Did you know that there are robbers who would try to make off with our riches in Christ?

This is what Paul is warning us about in Col. 2:8. The first area where we can fall prey to these robbers is:

Philosophy – the love of man's wisdom. Paul is not referring to the wisdom found in the word of God, but rather to the endless searching of the human mind without regard to God's revelation. Paul sums some of this up in vs. 18 of Col. 2. "Let no man _____ you of your _____ in a voluntary humility of worshipping of _____, intruding into those things which he hath _____, vainly _____ by his _____."

Many a believer has been "spoiled", by philosophy. Robbers have come and taken away the "Head" position of Christ from unsuspecting believers. Christ no longer is the one from which we receive all we need. Now He's insufficient. He is no longer our all in all.

These robbers intrude into areas of which they know nothing. Sorry to say but we can find believers worshipping angels and saints today. Acts 17:15-21 gives us a great description of a philosopher. Vs. 21 "(For all the Athenians and strangers which were there spent their time in nothing else, but either to _____, or to _____ some _____.)"

As you read further down in this passage you will notice that these people were very _____ vs. 22. Superstitious – practices based on unfounded fears or made up beliefs. Religion is full of these practices! In many religions these practices have supplanted any revealed truth.

Paul refers to two groups of philosophers in Acts 17:18. The _____ and the _____. If you want you can look up Epicurus the founder of Epicureanism. You can see where the "unenlightened" mind goes when it rejects the "light". The same is true with Zeno who founded the Stoic philosophy.

Anytime we depart from revealed truth and rely on our fleshly mind we fall into the pitfall of philosophy. Which will have it's end in taking from us our riches in Christ.

Trying to delve into areas where God has chosen not to reveal his truth is to philosophize. Deut. 29:29, "The _____ things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are _____ belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law."

Lesson 79 Continued

I can think of many a Bible student who has devoted years to trying to figure out prophecy events and dates. Dates have been set and come and gone. Sadly, these diversions have robbed them of the real truths that they should be appreciating. Remember Job and all the philosophizing that went on with his friends? Job 38:2, “Who is this that darkeneth counsel by _____?”

Ezekiel 13:3 “Thus saith the Lord God; Woe unto the foolish prophets, that _____ their _____, and have _____!”

Don't let philosophy spoil you. Christ is our Head from which all the _____ by joints and bands having _____ ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God. Col. 2:19

Don't ever go after human reasoning in place of God's revealed truth or where God has not revealed His truth. Protect, guard and cherish all the riches that are yours in Christ!

I Cor. 1:24, “But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the _____ of God.”

Paul says in Eph. 1:8, “Wherein he hath abounded toward us in _____ and prudence;” And where is this “all wisdom” found? Vs. 9, “Having made _____ unto us the _____ of his will...”

The mystery (secret) that God revealed to Paul unleashes the storehouse of God's riches to us in Christ Jesus. Jesus Christ preached according to the “revelation of the mystery”, Rom. 16:25, unlocks all the wisdom of God.