

Lesson 79 Answers and Comments

Correction Phil. 4:13 should be 4:19.

Spoiled	complete	without
Tents	him	knowledge
Took	all	follow
Spoil	spiritual	own
Rich	blessings	spirit
Rich	exceeding	seen
Forgiveness	riches	nothing
Sins	grace	body
Riches	Christ	nourishment
Freely	Jesus	wisdom
Give	beguile	all
All	reward	wisdom
Things	angels	known
Riches	not	mystery
Riches	seen	
Glory	puffed	
Riches	up	
Glory	fleshly	
Mystery	mind	
All	tell	
Riches	hear	
Assurance	new	
Understanding	thing	
Acknowledgement	superstitious	
Mystery	Epicureans	
Hid	Stoicks	
treasures	secret	
know	revealed	
him	words	

It's only as you and I come to an understanding of what God revealed to Paul concerning the Lord Jesus Christ that we can know the "unsearchable riches of Christ".

God's eternal purpose is satisfied and fulfilled in Christ Jesus.

Eph. 3:11, "According to his eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:"

And we are in Him and He is in us!

Lesson 80 Pitfalls of Tradition

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

We looked at philosophy last time as a would be robber of the riches that are ours in Christ.

Another pitfall for the believer is vain deceit.

I Tim. 6:20, “O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, _____ profane and _____, and oppositions of _____ so called.”

II Tim. 2:17, “And their _____ will eat as doth a _____...”

II Tim. 3:13, “But evil men and _____ shall wax worse and worse, _____ and being _____.”

Vain deceit is unprofitable, empty and false misleadings. These eat as a canker. Just as rust erodes and eats away so does vain deceit. It infects others, it spreads and makes inroads into our lives and the lives of others.

After having just been at a convention for “Christians” I can tell you that phrases like: “My pastor says”, “my church teaches”, I grew up believing”, “we’ve always thought”, “My parents told me”, “I like to think”, etc. abound in the so called “Christian community”. Everything we believe needs to have it’s foundation in the rightly divided word of truth!

II Tim. 1:13, “Hold fast the _____ of _____...”

II Tim. 4:3, “For the time will come when they will _____ endure _____...”

Whenever our thoughts or someone else becomes our standard for God’s truth we will most certainly be moved away from Christ.

Col. 2:8 goes on to list the traditions of _____, and the rudiments of the _____ as things we should beware of. The Lord says in Matt. 15:6 “...thus have ye made the _____ of _____ of _____ by your _____.” In vs. 9 He says, “But in _____ do they _____ me, teaching for _____ the _____ of _____.”

Mark 7:7, 8, “Howbeit in _____ do they _____ me, teachings for _____ the _____ of men.” Vs. 8 “For laying aside the _____ of _____, ye hold the _____ of _____, as the washing of pots and cups: and _____ other such like things they do.”

Mark 7:13, “Making the _____ of _____ of _____ through your _____...”

Paul says of himself before he was saved, Gal. 1:14, “And profited in the Jews religion, above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the _____ of my _____.”

Lesson 80 Continued

Tradition – the handing down or the handing over.

I Cor. 11:2 “Now I praise you, brethren, that ye _____ me in _____ things, and _____ the _____, as I _____ them to you.”

The things Paul delivered were the teachings he received from the Lord.

II Thes. 2:15, “Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and _____ the _____ which ye have been _____, whether by _____, or our _____.”

II Thes. 3:6, “...that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the _____ which he _____ of _____.”

Just as when the Lord was physically present on the earth the traditions of men abounded, so do they today. Is it more important for you to be in “church” on Sunday than to be taught the rightly divided word of God??

Is what you do or believe driven more by the traditions of men than by what Paul taught?

The “traditions of men” will always impose something instead of or in addition to Christ alone being the one who accomplished on the cross all that you and I need.

Let’s look back at Mark 7 and see how the Lord answered the scribes and Pharisees concerning the “traditions of men.”

Mark 7:6, “...this people honoureth me with their _____, but their _____ is far from me.” Christ was not pleased with the sham religious rites. Vs. 7 “...in _____ do they _____ me...” there is no profit to be had in holding to men’s traditions. Vs. 8 “...as the washing of pots and cups: and _____ other such like _____ ye do.” There is never an end to man’s traditions. Vs. 9 “...Full well ye _____ the _____ of God, that ye may _____ your _____.”
When there is great enthusiasm for traditions of men there is little or no interest in what God says.

The Lord then uses a very pointed example. Mark 7:10-12 lays out how they circumvented one of Moses commandments. Moses said vs. 10 “_____ thy _____ and thy _____; and whoso _____ father or mother, let him _____ the _____.” They didn’t like this commandment so they came up with a teaching (tradition) of their own. Basically, if you say, “I gave at the office”, my gifts are on the altar, you were discharged from any obligation to your parents. It seems to curse your parents was equivalent to not seeing to their needs. This ungodly altar vow now released them from doing _____ for their father or mother, vs. 12.

This mentality can creep ever so subtly into our lives. We can engage in activities that are meant to “tip our hat to God,” so to speak, without any heart interest in being submissive to the Word of God. The traditions of men will surely rob us of the intimate reality that Christ wants us to have with Him.

Lastly, the rudiments of the world are listed as a pitfall for believers. Paul expands on this in Col. 2:20, Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the _____ of the _____, why as though living in the world, are ye _____ to _____, vs. 21 (_____; _____; _____; vs. 22 Which all are to perish with the using;) after the _____ and _____ of men?”

Lesson 80 Continued

I grew up with a list of do's and don'ts (don't dance, play cards, go to movies, etc.) which I was surprised to come to find out that they were not in the Bible!! I also thought that there was a need to get up early (the earlier the more godly) to read the Bible and pray. If you prayed on your knees you were extra spiritual. If you didn't wear make-up you were certainly God's favorite. On and on it goes, remember the Lord said to the Pharisees, "and many other such like things ye do."

There is nothing wrong with a regular Bible study time or praying on your knees. If these activities are imposed by some sort of "law" or tradition in order for you to please or gain acceptance with the Lord then you have been robbed of the joy of knowing that Christ has put you in Himself and made you complete in Him!

Don't let anyone rob you of all the wonderful truths that are yours in Christ.

Beware, don't fall into the pitfalls of philosophy, vain deceit, traditions of men or the rudiments of the world.