

How to Resist Philosophy

Disturbing news of today,
so don't be trapped or deceived by the so-called educated of this world!

Fred R. Coulter—April 24, 2021

Greetings, everyone! Welcome to Sabbath services!

Current Events in the News:

A lot has been happening in America with all the things that are going on. The political stuff you probably already covered. However, let's look at a couple of other things that portend what's going to happen in the future.

You can be thankful that you don't live in Canada at this time. Other times it's a good time to live there, but there are a couple of things that are really disturbing.

Canadian Covid Police Erect High Security Fences Around Gracelife Church In Edmonton, Alberta To Keep Christian Worshippers Out

{<https://www.nowtheendbegins.com/edmonton-canada-police-close-gracelife-church-james-coates/>}

Sign of the times!

Is Trudeau Handing Control of Vancouver International Airport Over to Communist China?

{<https://canadafreepress.com/article/is-trudeau-handing-control-of-vancouver-international-airport-over-to-communist-china/>}

“As we were walking in single file on either side along this chosen path were guards about every 20 feet keeping us contained on path. The guards were Chinese in Airport Security uniforms. I wanted to take a picture but I was sternly warned not to take any pictures. I asked if I may use the woman's facilities and having to go off path I was escorted by a Chinese woman in the uniform of the Airport Security. I have Chinese friends but this felt very different. It was unnerving coming back to my country to be made to file one after another with Chinese guards keeping us in line and directing us....

Think about that! Remember that the Chinese want to control and dominate, and here's how they do it.

...After seeming to walk a mile we ended up at 3 Booths each with 2 Chinese guards. The top was surrounded by glass with a small cut to pass papers through. I had an emergency medical appointment due to an accident that affected my disability.

Then they gave her a hard time on that! They had to escort her out with Chinese guards to the hospital. Think about what that means!

In the sovereign country of Canada, you invite the aliens from another country—in this case Chinese—and give them sovereignty over your airport.

Think about what else could happen. Since they're taking care of the airport, would there be planes flying in from China that have drugs on them, and conveniently would not be found? All kinds of things would happen.

If that isn't bad enough, remember what we read some time ago that the Chinese virus vaccine was done by hacking our DNA. Let me just say this straight out:

You don't need the vaccine!

1. We should all be taking care of ourselves every day.
2. If you take zinc, vitamin D-3 and vitamin C everyday you won't have to worry about it.

The reason I bring this out is that this vaccine has MRNA, on which they can store code. They've been working on this, and if they store the code on there they can trigger a reaction whenever they send the signal.

You never know when they send the signal because you have your smart phone and wherever you go the signal goes with you. They can determine, in some cases, behavior.

They're also working on this to change a person's memory.

False Memories Can Be Planted and Then Reversed, Researchers Find

{<https://www.wsj.com/articles/false-memories-can-be-planted-and-then-reversed-researchers-find-11616440361>}

They have successfully done it! Think what they will do when they arrest Christians! ‘We will let you go if you take this memory eraser. If you don't, your head will be next in the basket.’

The Fully Vaccinated Are Getting Infected Again, Demonstrating Yet Again That Vaccines Don't Really Work As Promised

{<https://www.brudirect.com/news.php?id=115075>}

Do you know anything about Fauci, he's the Director of the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and

Infectious Diseases^[transcriber's correction], which is under the CDC. You think that's part of the government, but no. It's an agency that the government supports, but it's independent.

Guess where one of their favorite labs of experimentation is located? *Wuhan, China!* And American money went to finance this Covid-19. Now they're working on another one. The fully vaccinated are getting infected again, so it doesn't work!

They are preparing for Ebola, and they've been working on Ebola for a long time. Once you get people where they willingly volunteer and have these vaccines given to them, and if they make it so you can't go anywhere unless you can prove that you've been vaccinated, guess what's going to happen? Think about if they use the MRNA again and they do things such as *altering or adding to your memory, or changing your behavior!* So, the next one is Ebola:

CDC issues Ebola checklist: 'Now is the time to prepare'

{<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/cdc-issues-ebola-checklist-now-is-the-time-to-prepare>}

- How close are we getting? *Here's a clue!*
- How do they know it's time to prepare unless they know what they're working on?

A Successful Artificial Memory Has Been Created

{<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/a-successful-artificial-memory-has-been-created/>}

This study is remarkable because it demonstrates that by manipulating specific circuits in the brain, memories can be separated from that narrative and formed in the complete absence of real experience.

Have you heard of Starlink? *Starlink is a project by Elon Musk!* He's the second richest man in the world. They've been doing a lot of things with space exploration and sending men and bringing them back, and sending supplies to the International Space Station

Who was one of first ones to think of a Space Station? *Germany during WWII, Wernher von Braun!* He came to America and became an American and brought all the knowledge of the German rockets. The V-2 rocket that he designed became the Atlas rocket that sent our astronauts to the moon.

Elon Musk has figured out a way—think about how advanced this is—it shows a picture of the rocket going up and there are two or three stages to get up into space, depending on how high you're going to go.

The way the Americans originally did it with the German scientists, they would send it up and the first rockets had to drop off. They let them drop into the ocean never to be used again. Elon Musk said that's a waste, so his engineers designed how they can use those rocket thrusters to get it off the earth and then have it drop off of the rocket. He designed them to come back down and land on a barge in the ocean so they can reuse them again.

They have this project called *Starlink*, and because they have already done about 20% of it, they will send up a rocket and it sends out about 20 small satellites at a low level orbit. This is for everyone that has a digital system, internet, telephone, everything. His project is to surround the world with these Starlink satellites so anybody in the most remote places can have access to all Internet things.

Think about that! Did you know that there's a Scripture that talks about this. It would be a Scripture that a couple of hundred years ago you could never understand.

Just like today, we have hundreds of people out there watching the live Internet presentation of this Sabbath service. We also had in February a conference with all the elders. I had a screen right in front of me and I could see every one of them. When they would talk, their little picture would expand out and their face would fill up the screen that I was watching and we could talk directly to one another.

It didn't matter how far away they were, it's almost instantaneous! I talked to Roy Assanti in Australia and there was no delay. I talked to Andrew Moses in Malaysia and there was no delay.

Can that fulfill a prophecy? *The two witnesses* (Rev. 11)! *This ends—what we're going to talk about here—just prior to the first resurrection!* So, the only question is: How long will this Starlink system be working before or after—depending when it happens—the two witnesses come on the scene. Remember that the two witnesses come on the scene in Jerusalem.

Sidebar: I got a call from a man who said, 'I just talked to the two witnesses.' I said, 'No you didn't! You didn't talk to them, you talked to imposters!' Why? *Because:*

- Zech. 3 talks about the high priest at the coming temple in Jerusalem.
- Zech. 4 talks about the governor of Judea

These two are called in Zech. 4 'the two olive trees that stand before the God of the earth.'

Note this good: **the two witness will not come from the Church!**—period! Never happen! That is a separate individual operation by God

Himself directly!

Revelation 11:3: “And I will give *power* to My two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred *and* sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.”

God is giving the world every chance! He’s not sending armies; He’s not sending rockets! ***He’s sending two men!*** Think about that! ***And they are clothed in sackcloth!***

Verse 4: “These are the two olive trees, and *the* two lampstands that stand before the God of the earth...”—*referring to Zech. 3 & 4!*

Notice, you talk about can God do anything? *Yes, He can!*

“...And if anyone attempts to harm them, fire will go out of their mouths and devour their enemies....” (vs 4-5).

Think about this Starlink system working. That will be instantaneous on Starlink.

“...For if anyone attempts to harm them, he must be killed in this manner. These have authority...” (vs 5-6)—*from God!*

There’s one man—David Pack—who says that he’s going to have authority over the two witnesses. ***Never happen!***

- That’s a lie!
- That’s a false doctrine!

David Pack better repent of it and get rid of it; he’s going to cause a lot of people trouble!

Verse 6: “These have authority to shut heaven so that no rain may fall in *the* days of their prophecy; and they have authority over the waters, to turn them into blood, and to smite the earth with every plague, as often as they will.”

- What are all those plagues?
- Where do we find them used by God? *Egypt!*

Go back to Exodus and look at the plagues. This is what God uses!

Verse 7: “And when they have completed their testimony, the beast who ascends out of the abyss will make war against them, and will overcome them, and will kill them.... [notice what happens]: ...And ***their bodies will lie in the street*** of the great city... [Jerusalem] ...which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, ***where also our Lord was crucified***” (vs 7-8). *That identifies it as Jerusalem!*

Jesus was not crucified in Sodom and He was not crucified in Egypt. But:

- Sodom tell us the type of sexual morays

that they will have at that time

- Egypt tells us what kind of religion it will be; *satanic and demonic*

After they’re killed notice what happens:

Verse 9: “Then those of **the peoples and tribes and languages and nations shall see their bodies three and a half days...**”

Two hundred years ago if you were a minister in the Church and you read this and someone raised his hand and said, ‘Pastor, how could all these people see it?’ *Today, it’s accepted!* And it covers the whole world!

“...for they will not allow their bodies to be put into tombs. And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, and will make merry, and will send gifts to one another, **because these two prophets had tormented those who dwell on the earth**” (vs 9-10).

Then after three and a half days, God says that’s enough, ‘Come up here!’ The Spirit of God comes into them and they rise up and as they’re rising up the seventh trump sounds! Quite a thing! This is going to be spectacular!

How long do we have? *Everyone wants to know!* How long do we have? Well, Elon Musk says that this program is going to take five years to finish. How long after the five years will this be running and everybody gets used to it? It will be commonplace everywhere in the world! We don’t know, but this does tell us that we are right at the last.

Coupled with this—and I’ll cover this on Pentecost:

Society of Catholic Scientists prepares for conference on non-human intelligence

{https://www.reddit.com/r/aliens/comments/mtwq6w/society_of_catholic_scientists_prepares_for/}

If you watch the History Channel, every Friday afternoon and all day Sabbath you have ‘experts’ on aliens.

Now the Catholics are believing that there are going to be aliens. That’s why the world is going to fight Jesus Christ. When He returns it is going to be spectacular! So, there are a lot of exciting things to happens, and ***prophecy is real and will take place!*** We will see a lot of things happen.

On the message that I gave—*The Thinker and the Thought*—on Dr. Herman Hoeh’s *Unfinished Business*—the utterer and the utterance—I have a paper from a man who grew up in the Church and at 18-years-old left the Church and

became a Catholic. He sent me a paper on the Trinity. *Amazing!*

There was another man in the UK—R.D. Dedman—and thank you for sending it. It is quite a detailed paper on the Trinity and it's quite amazing what men come up with! ***The way we know about God is:***

1. His Word
2. He deals with us and begins to call us and open our mind

That is called *God revealing Himself to us!* No amount of human thought ***can define God, Who He is, what He does,*** etc.!

The man from the UK sent me Plutinus, Aristotle, Pythagoras and Augustine; all the big thinkers of philosophy. Augustine is the one who is called *the true father of the Roman Catholic Church.*

The writer of this paper says:

If ever proof were needed from Plutinus' own writings that he did not regard the One or God, he uses these terms interchangeably several times as an absolute negation, it is this passage found in v1 six.

'Let us speak of it as intellect.'

So, you start with yourself and your mind!

In this way, first invoking God Himself, not in spoken words, but by stretching ourselves out with our soul into prayer to Him. Able in this way to pray alone to Him alone.

Who is out there to inspire? *There are some amazing things in the Bible about that!*

Divine knowledge does not involved multiplicity. So then, Plutinus did not, in fact, deny existence of being to the One in the sense of a total negation. Neither did he deny life, hence being, and love to the One.

This understanding combined with speculations derived from his studies of the Chaldean oracles.

Now you know why we have Babylon, and we had Babylon before the time of Nebuchadnezzar, and we have Babylon in the book of Revelation. All of this stuff comes out of Babylon! This fulfills what Solomon wrote: ***There is nothing new under the sun that has not been done before!***

This attribution of knowledge to the transcendent One to God to the first hypostasis of Plutinus leads us directly into the Christian Trinity.

And the Catholics say that you must take it on faith because you can't understand it! Why? ***Because it's demonic!***

As we shall shortly see, we will see how Porphyry adopted the Plutinus scheme and how this was taken up in turn by the Catholic theologian, the Latin Plutonic Marcus Victoranus. This Victoranus had once been a student of Porphyry.

I just read that for you to know there's a lot in there. This is so hard reading that I take 3-4 pages at a time, ***because it's reasoning in circles!*** It is pure philosophy.

We're going to see that you cannot take the philosophies of men or any other ideas of men and attach them to what the Word of God has and develop a 'religion' that will put you in contact with the true God. ***It will never happen!***

The word *philosopher* means *lover of knowledge!* Paul wrote:

Colossians 2:1: "Now, I want you to understand what great concern I have for you, and for those in Laodicea, and as many as have not seen my face in *the flesh*; that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding..." (vs 1-2).

Why is he writing it this way? *Because he's ready to counter the attacks of philosophy!*

"...unto *the* knowledge of the mystery of God, and of *the* Father, and of Christ; in Whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (vs 2-3).

That's what philosopher's deal with, ***their*** wisdom and ***their*** knowledge to try and find God so they can be important and dictate the terms of what this religion means.

Verse 4: "Now, **this I say so that no one may deceive you by persuasive speech.** For though I am indeed absent in the flesh, yet, I am with you in spirit, rejoicing and beholding your order, and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ. Therefore, as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, **be walking in Him...** [notice what he is stressing here]: **...being rooted and built up in Him, and being confirmed in the faith...** [the Truth of God] ...exactly as you were taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. **Be on guard so that no one takes you captive through philosophy...**"(vs 4-8).

Quite an interesting statement! Would you say that Dr. Herman Hoeh was taken captive by philosophy?

"...and vain deceit, according to the

traditions of men...” (v 8)—*which goes back to ancient Babylon at the beginning, probably right after the Tower of Babel!*

“...according to the elements of the world... [the way the world thinks, the way the world does] ...and not according to Christ” (v 8).

They have on Fox News that they have specials and it’s entitled *The Wise Ones*. Very intelligent men, some of the most intelligent around Washington, D.C. They are utterly blind to the Truth!

Verse 9: “For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily, and **you are complete in Him**, Who is the Head of all principality and power” (vs 9-10).

What we’re going to read next is very interesting, because what stands as the Truth of God to keep us from this kind of thing happening. Let me just say this: ***Do not confuse things in the world where there is good, because it comes from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil!***

What happens with the thoughts of men? *They try and bring human ‘good’ thoughts and mix it in with different things to try and understand God!* That’s how philosophy works! You will know that all philosophy reasons in a circle. “...**you are complete in Him**...”

Verse 11: “In Whom you have also been circumcised with *the* circumcision not made by hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ.” **How is that accomplished? By baptism!**

- repentance
- baptism
- faith in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins
- receipt of the Holy Spirit as a begetting from God the Father

So, that you can be in training from that time on in preparation for the return of Jesus Christ! That’s what it’s all about! Eternal life is so important, and we need all the training we can get; all the knowledge from God’s Word that we can get.

Whatever age we live in—past, present or future—we have to be on guard with these false doctrines coming in. They come from everywhere!

Verse 12: “Having been buried with Him in baptism...”

You are conjoined to the sacrifice of Christ (Rom. 6). That’s ***His covenant pledge*** to save you. ***Your covenant pledge*** is baptism! That’s why God symbolically joins you to the sacrifice of Christ. That is ***your sacrifice*** in the covenant arrangement.

“...by which you have also been raised with Him through the inner working of God, Who raised Him from the dead.... [receiving the Holy Spirit] ...For you, who were *once* dead in *your* sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has *now* made alive with Him, having forgiven all your trespasses. He has blotted out the note of debt against us...” (vs 12-14).

That is symbolically all of your sins! Where are all of your sins really written? *In your mind!* God has forgiven them! As they come up as we go along, repent of them!

“...with the decrees of *our* sins, which was contrary to us...” (v 14). This is perhaps the only correct translation of this verse of all the different Bibles that have been produced.

“...and He has taken it away, having nailed it to the cross” (v 14).

Protestants read this and say that ‘He nailed the Laws of God to the cross.’ ***NO!*** He nailed ***SIN*** to the cross!

Is Jesus the Lamb of God to take away the sin of the world? ***Yes!*** When He was nailed to the cross, that represented in all total every sin of all human beings of all time, because ***He created*** man and woman! We are all descendants from Adam and Eve.

A lot of people don’t like to hear that, but that’s just a fact. So, He didn’t nailed the laws to the cross. I tell you what, if the laws were nailed to the cross then you would love living in downtown Minneapolis amongst the riots, the fires and the lawless! That’s a good example of it.

Verse 15: “After stripping the principalities and the powers, He made a public spectacle of them, *and* has triumphed over them in it.” *That is in the crucifixion!*

What was happening around the cross when Christ was crucified? *There were a lot of angels, Satan the devil, the demons all circling around!* The demons were making fun of Him (Psa. 22). There was a lot of spiritual activity going on; a powerful struggle going on.

Because they were still uncircumcised physically Gentiles, Christ had to give them this warning.

(break)

Advertisement: I want to mention that this next week we’re sending off everything to the printer to print an expanded version of *God’s Plan for Mankind Revealed by His Sabbath and Holy Days*. That’s going to be some book! There is not other book like it in the entire world!

I recommend this: *Make sure that you get the actual book!* It's good to have a lot of things on your smart phone, on your computer and all this sort of thing, **but** the time is going to come when you're going to need the real thing again, that is books.

I just wanted to mention that, because we're going to cover some of this right here in Col. 2 where we ended up before the break:

Verse 10: "And **you are complete in Him**... [in Christ Jesus and God the Father] ...Who is the Head of all principality and power."

So, there is no other power out there. **Those that are out there, generally speaking**—except for righteous angels to protect the saints and carry out the will of God—**are from Satan the devil dressed up so it's appealing to people!**

I was given a book last week, which is a teaching book for ages 8-12, and it's a religious book about Jesus. 'If you believe in Jesus it doesn't matter what you do.' Think about it!

If you ever had a doubt that Satan is deceiving the whole world, and that he is the wicked power—the whole world is in the power of the wicked one—just look what's going on in education. Look what's going on in the world.

Carry this over to what we're covering today. "...**you are complete in Him**..." *You don't need anything from the outside world to make you a better Christian!* You need:

- the Spirit of God
- the way of God
- the Laws of God

and that's what makes you a better Christian!

Don't confuse the 'good' from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil as something good that is really what we should be doing.

Anything that reflects the Laws of God, they're stealing from God! "...Who is the Head of **all principality and power**" (v 10)—*that means all angels/demons and Satan the devil!*

Now, here's one of the trickiest verses in the whole New Testament, and the Protestants and fake Christianity to go to this to say 'we don't have to keep the Sabbath and Holy Days.'

Verse 16: "Therefore, do not allow anyone..." *It doesn't say other brethren, it says anyone*—in the Church or out of the Church!

"...to judge you in eating or in drinking..." (v 16).

What commandments do we have concerning eating? *The law of clean and unclean meats!* Why did God give that? *For our benefit, because He loves us!* He doesn't want us to be getting the sickness and disease of these other animals that people eat.

And drinking because there were a lot of teetotalers associated with demonism. They could drink wine and if there was strong drink, in moderation. In other words, *God's way shows us:*

1. how we are to live *physically*
2. how we are to live *spiritually*

We're told to come out of the world. What does that mean? *That doesn't mean you go into orbit around the world! That means you come out of the world's system!*

- How do you come out?
- What is it that you do that is different from what the world does?
 - ✓ The Sabbath and Holy Days!
 - ✓ Especially the Passover

"...do not allow anyone to judge you..."—*or criticize you saying:*

What are you doing? You keep the Sabbath? That's Jewish!

No, it's not! It's for all mankind!

Verse 16: "Therefore, do not allow anyone to judge you in eating or in drinking, **or with regard to a Festival**..."

What's that Feast of Unleavened Bread? *Those are days we don't eat any bread with leaven!* Well, that's stupid, why would you do that?

That's not stupid, that's smart, because God says to do it! He says, 'Seven days you shall eat Unleavened Bread.' What are we to learn from that? *During that seven days leaven is a type of sin!* and 'a little leaven leavens the whole lump.' If you want to look at the world today, **it's spreading everywhere!**

"...**or new moon**..." (v 16)—*singular!* That has to do with the calendar, not keeping the day. But the new moon that we do keep is Trumpets! We go by the Calculated Hebrew Calendar.

"...**or the Sabbaths**" (v 16)—*plural!* **That's what keeps us out of the world!** When we come to Sabbath services:

- you're worshipping God
- you're fellowshiping with the brethren
- you're not doing yard work
- you're not doing shopping
- you're not doing housework
- you're not doing mechanical work
- you're not doing investing

- you're not buying and selling

That's what's going on in the world! You're separate from the world though you live in it. You're separate because you love God and keep His commandments.

All these above, the Festivals, new moon and Sabbaths, v 17: "Which are a foreshadow of the things that are coming..."

It there's something coming and there's light behind it, there's a shadow coming right in front of it. That shadow will tell you what is coming. That's what all the Holy Days are about, and that's what the whole book of Revelation is about.

"...a foreshadow of the things that are coming..." *Not thing that **have** come*, as some falsely translate it.

"...but the Body of Christ" (v 17)—*which is the Church!* The Church is to teach these things.

Then again, Paul gives a warning. Colossi was one of the cities in Asia Minor, all Greek:

- Greek gods
- Greek philosophy
- Greek tradition

So, they're coming out of it, and different ones are saying, 'Why don't you go with us down to Mars Temple or Athena Temple or Diana Temple and offer the sacrifice?' *No, I don't do that anymore!*

Or today, 'Why did you quite the Baptist Church? *Well, because they didn't teach the Bible!* 'I see them read from it every week.' *Yeah, but they don't read what's important!*

This brings us out of the world! Notice that we're not let anyone come and bully us into anything:

Verse 18: "**Do not allow anyone to defraud you of the prize...** [the resurrection from the dead and that's the reward that Christ will give us] ...*by doing his will in self-abasement and the worship of angels...*" *Those have to be fallen angels!*

- Why?
- Can you think of a couple of Scriptures where an angel told John something?
- What was it that the angel told him?

He fell down to worship the angel that brought the message, and the angel said, 'No, don't do that, worship God!' Same thing in Rev. 22.

"...intruding into things that he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his own carnal mind" (v 18). *In other words, **vanity of philosophy that is inspired by fallen angels!***

That little bit that I read, about the thinker

and the thought, the utterer and utterance:

- Where do those ideas come from?
- Do the Scriptures record that Satan the devil put it into the mind of Judas Iscariot to betray Jesus? *Yes!*
- Can Satan put things into your mind?
- Can he put 'good' ideas into your mind? *That seem good, but really are not!*

Let's see what's happening in the world:

Ephesians 2:1: "Now, you were dead in trespasses and sins."

Those who don't have the Holy Spirit of God, though they're alive and walking, they're as good as dead!

Verse 2: "In which you walked in times past... [the way of the world] ...according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air..."—*Satan the devil!*

We've read this before, but let's see how this works. We will see it in just a minute.

"...the spirit that is now working within the children of disobedience" (v 2).

Where do they get all these inspired things? Sounds like what happening in the running of the government today; *it's crazy!*

Verse 3: "Among whom also we all once had our conduct... [here's what he appeals to]: ...in the lusts of our flesh, doing the things willed by the flesh and by the mind, and were by nature *the* children of wrath, even as the rest *of the world.*"

Let's see how that works! This becomes very instructive. Satan has a lot of things out there going for him. Satan has:

- all the media
- 90% of the news
- all of the entertainment
- all of the music

Go back 80 years and they didn't have that kind of music. They didn't have those kinds of things. But especially for young people they have music so loud that their cars almost blow up as they're going down the street—BOOM! BOOM! Have you ever had a car go by and your whole house is shaking, because someone is out there blowing his brains out with the music? They don't have a decent thought in their head!

Mark 8:27: "Then Jesus and His disciples went into the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And along the way He was questioning His disciples, saying to them, 'Who do men say that I am?' And they answered, 'John the Baptist; and others, Elijah. And some *say*, one of the prophets.' And He said to

them, ‘But you, Who do you say that I am?’ And Peter answered and said to Him, ‘You are the Christ’” (vs 27-29)—

Matt. 16 says, ‘the Son of the living God’ and ‘My Father has revealed it to you.’ I want you to keep that in mind as we go along.

Verse 30: “Then He strictly charged them that they should tell no one about Him. And He began to teach them that it was necessary for the Son of man to suffer many things, and to be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and to be killed, but after three days to rise *from the dead*. And He spoke these words openly. **Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him**” (vs 30-32)—*rebuke Jesus Christ!*

It’s recorded in Matt. 16, ‘far be it that happening to You, Lord.’ Now let’s see what Jesus said; this is to Peter:

Verse 33: “But He turned and looked at His disciples, *and then* rebuked Peter, saying, **‘Get behind Me, Satan, because your thoughts are not of the things of God, but of the things of men.’**”

Peter was going to rescue Jesus by man’s circumstances. Satan comes along with a good thought:

Lord, this isn’t going to happen to You, I’m here and I’m going to make sure it doesn’t happen to You.’

- Can Satan send ‘good’ thoughts?
- What tree does he own? *The Tree of the Knowledge of **Good** and Evil!*

So he can send *good* thoughts! ‘I’ll be the hero, I’ll save Jesus.’ Think about that! We know what we’re up against.

Dolores always had a good saying for me; she would tell me if I wasn’t thinking something that wasn’t correct: ***Fred, all thoughts are not good thoughts, and many thoughts can be evil thoughts!*** But you don’t intend them to be evil, and you do want to do good.

- Who is there to send ‘good’ messages or ‘good’ thoughts? *Satan the devil!*
- How did He appear to Adam and Eve? *As someone with knowledge and understanding to help them to become like God!*

2-Cor. 4 tells us something that all of us as elders and teachers have to apply to ourselves, as well.

2-Corinthians 4:1: “Therefore, having this ministry, according as we have received mercy, we are not fainthearted. For **we have personally**

renounced...” (vs 1-2).

All you ministers on TBN listen up with your jets and money and fundraising. That seems all they’re doing now is raising funds.

“...the hidden things of dishonest gain, not walking in *cunning* craftiness, nor handling the Word of God deceitfully...” (vs 2). *That’s how they get false doctrine!*

“...but by manifestation of the Truth...” (v 2). *The Word of God is the Truth and that’s what we conduct everything by!* Look at this society when there’s no honesty and truth left. Look at it!

“...we are commending ourselves to every man’s conscience before God. **But** if our Gospel is hidden, it is hidden to those who are perishing” (vs 2-3).

Notice what Satan can do in relationship to the Word of God, and why they cannot get it correct. The reason they can’t get it correct is because they don’t keep the Sabbath and the Holy Days, and they don’t keep the Passover.

Verse 4: “In whom the god of this age has blinded the minds of those who do not believe...”

How does he blind the mind? *By saying to them:*

That’s really not necessary! No, you don’t have to do that! Not eating pork, that’s for the Jews. Have all you want. Have some calamari.

“...lest the Light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ...” (v 4).

What does this tell us? *Satan wants to confuse people so they won’t understand the Truth!* They don’t have the true Christ.

“...Who is *the* image of God, should shine unto them. For we do not preach our own selves...” (vs 4-5).

Think of that! We don’t preach our own ideas! *Philosophy!*

“...but Christ Jesus *the* Lord, and ourselves your servants for Jesus’ sake” (v 5).

Satan has his own ministry, his own people. He can send demons to inspire them and be around them. We’re confronted with this. Isn’t it going to be an amazing thing when all of these ministers are raised from the dead and come before God to give an account, and they will say:

O Lord Jesus, we’re happy to be here. Look at what we did, we did wonderful works; we did all of this.

- What will Jesus say? *Depart from Me you who work lawlessness!*
- What does it also say? *What if you gain the whole world and lose your soul?*
- What have you gained?

Next time you watch a special on the pyramids, the Pharaohs and the tombs in Egypt, and they find a dead body, what does that tell you? *They never went anyplace, they're still there!*

2-Corinthians 11:1: "I would *that* you might bear with me in a little nonsense; but indeed, do bear with me. For I am jealous over you with *the* jealousy of God because I have espoused you to one husband, so that I may present *you as* a chaste virgin to Christ. But **I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent... [Satan the devil] ...deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds might be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ"** (vs 1-3).

How are they corrupted? *By the thoughts of Satan the devil, who is the prince of the power of the air!* On the other hand, when we come to services with the Spirit of God and the Word of God, everything is entirely different.

"...so your minds might be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ" *That's amazing! Think about that!*

Verse 4: "For indeed, if someone comes preaching another Jesus, whom we did not preach, or you receive a different spirit, which you did not receive..."—*from Satan the devil!*

Why do people go into these convents and monasteries and they're just so devoted? You see someone interview them and they're devoted and they're right with it. They have sacrificed everything. They appear so righteous! That's the righteousness of Satan the devil! ***That's not the righteousness of God!*** It's for show, it looks good.

"...or a different gospel, which you did not accept... [instead of rejecting it, and that's what they should do] ...**you put up with it as something good**" (v 4).

Well, let's hear both sides of it. We'll have Satan on this side and Jesus on this side and we'll see who wins. *It doesn't work that way, because Satan is going to lose!*

Verse 5: "But I consider myself in no way inferior to those highly exalted *so-called* apostles"—*false apostles!*

Verse 13: "For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers who are transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And *it is* no marvel, for Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light" (vs 13-14):

- who brings philosophy
- who brings wonderful intellectualism

Verse 15: "Therefore, *it is* no great thing if his servants... [he's got a lot of them] ...also transform themselves as ministers of righteousness—whose end shall be according to their works."

Then if you want to know how tough Paul's life really was, read the rest of 2-Cor. 11 and ask yourself: **Would I be willing to go through all of this?** It's quite a thing that Paul went through!

- he was beaten
- he was scourged
- he was shipwrecked
- he was hounded and chased

Paul was brought to Athens, where Diana or Athena and all of the gods. Have you ever watched on the History Channel the untold story of Washington, D.C.? The Washington Monument, the obelisks. Have you ever seen those?

Here Paul was with all these gods and goddesses; Acts 17:16: "But while Paul was waiting for them in Athens, **he saw that the city was wholly given to idolatry,** and his spirit was sorely moved within him. Because of this, he reasoned earnestly in the synagogue with the Jews and those who worshiped *there*, and daily in the marketplace with those who met with *him*. Then some philosophers of the Epicureans and the Stoics..." (vs 16-18).

There we have philosophers, and that's the thing that Paul said to the Colossians, 'Don't be trapped or deceived by philosophy.'

"...encountered him. And some *of them* said, 'What will this babbler have to say?' And some *said*, 'He seems to be a preacher of foreign gods,' because he was preaching to them the Gospel of Jesus and the resurrection. And they took him and brought *him* to Mars Hill..." (vs 18-19).

The most important place to be to tell the philosophers what's on your mind.

"...saying, 'May we know what this new teaching *is* that is spoken by you? For you are bringing certain strange things to our ears. So then, we desire to know what these things mean'" (vs 19-20).

Paul starts right off with what he saw; v 21: "(Now, all *the* Athenians and the strangers sojourning *among them* spent their leisure in nothing other than to tell and to hear something new.)" *We read some of that!*

Verse 22: "Then Paul stood in *the* center of Mars Hill *and* said, 'Men, Athenians, I perceive *that*

in all things you are very reverent to deities”—*in the Greek this is to demons!*

What do you think was there in the city of Athens? *Wherever there are idols there are demons!* That’s why God says that you should have no idols.

- you shall not make them
- you shall not bow down to them

Those are invitations to demons!

Verse 23: “For *as* I was passing through and observing the objects of your veneration, I also found an altar on which was inscribed, ‘To an unknown God.’ . . .”

They figured they knew every one but the unknown God. So, they figured they better not leave Him out.

“...So then, He Whom you worship in ignorance is **the One that I proclaim to you**” (v 23).

All of these philosophers had ideas about how things were created, the order that they were created, when they were made and all of this sort of thing. They had gods and demigods and so forth.

Verse 24: **“He is the God Who made the world and all things that are in it....”**

That’s an amazing thing! I tell you, the longer I live and understand what we understand about how everything works that God created, our bodies are living, working machines to keep us alive. God created everything! The visible and invisible! ***The most powerful things of God are the invisible!***

Right now, as we’re speaking, right here there are particles that are so small they continually pass through everything that’s on the earth and through it. How did God do that? Think about it the next time you cut your finger.

- How did God make it so that you don’t bleed to death?
- How did God make it so that there would be a scab?
- How did God make it so that under that scab the blood is working back and forth and healing and building new skin

And after it’s all done, it’s all repaired! Think about that with everything that God has made:

- every seed that is planted
- every morsel of food that is grown
- every breath of air that you take

*God has done this for the whole world for billions of people! **But in His plan He’s called us!***

“...Being *the* Lord... [Boss, Ruler and Owner] ...of heaven and earth, He does not dwell in temples made by hands” (v 24).

There Paul is, standing on Mars Hill in front of the temple that they built for Athena and Zeus and says that God is not in there! Talk about telling them something that they didn’t want to hear! Look at all the work they did to do it. Look at all the design, all the rock carving and forming and everything, and building that Parthenon!

Verse 25: “Nor is He served by the hands of men, as *though* He needs anything, for **He gives to all...**”

Think about this, and really think about it in every aspect that you can. I’ve got a big National Geographic Atlas that shows the whole world. I’m up to Asia. The whole world is there! Most of the cities are little dots, printed their location on the earth, and how many people live there. How many people is God tending to with air, food, water and all of that. Then you look at the oceans and all that is there.

“...He gives to all **life and breath and all things**. And He made of one blood all the nations of men to dwell upon all the face of the earth, having determined beforehand *their* appointed times and the boundaries of their dwelling; in order that they might seek the Lord, if perhaps they might feel after Him and might find Him; though truly, He is not far from each one of us” (vs 25-27).

Then Paul give them the reality of something that is very important:

Verse 28: “For **in Him...**”

Everything there is about the creation of the whole world, the universe, everything that there is:

- down to the smallest thing in our lives
- down to what we need to exist
- down to understand the Word of God

“...**we live and move and have our being**; as some of the poets among you also have said, ‘For we are His offspring.’ Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we should not think that the Godhead *is* like that which *is made* of gold, or silver, or stone—a graven thing of art *devised by the* imagination of man” (vs 28-29).

This is why it’s very important that we understand the doctrine of these philosopher things, difficulties that come and how we can deal with it and stay true to God.

Scriptural References:

- 1) Revelation 11:3-10

- 2) Colossians 2:1-15, 10, 16-18
- 3) Ephesians 2:1-3
- 4) Mark 8:27-33
- 5) 2 Corinthians 4:1-5
- 6) 2 Corinthians 11:1-5, 13-15
- 7) Acts 17:16-29

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- Romans 6
- Psalm 22
- Revelation 22
- Matthew 16

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Book: *God's Plan for Mankind Revealed by His Sabbath and Holy Days* by Fred R. Coulter (coming soon)

FRC:bo
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