

Sermon Outline

HOW TO ESCAPE A HOSTAGE SITUATION *Colossians 2:8-23*

Deuteronomy 30:4-6 – Moses speaks of God's promise to his people about a future restoration after judgment

⁴ Even if your exiles are at the ends of the earth, He will gather you and bring you back from there.

⁵ The LORD your God will bring you into the land your fathers possessed, and you will take possession of it. He will cause you to prosper and multiply you more than He did your fathers. ⁶ The LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the hearts of your descendants, and you will love Him with all your heart and all your soul so that you will live.

Colossians 2:8-23 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

⁸ Be careful that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit based on human tradition, based on the elemental forces of the world, and not based on Christ.

⁹ For in Him the entire fullness of God's nature dwells bodily, ¹⁰ and you have been filled by Him, who is the head over every ruler and authority.

¹¹ In Him, you were also circumcised with a circumcision not done with hands, by putting off the body of flesh, in the circumcision of the Messiah. ¹² Having been buried with Him in baptism, you were also raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. ¹³ And when you were dead in trespasses and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive with Him and forgave us all our trespasses. ¹⁴ He erased the certificate of debt, with its obligations, that was against us and opposed to us, and has taken it out of the way by nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and disgraced them publicly; He triumphed over them by Him.

¹⁶ Therefore, don't let anyone judge you in regard to food and drink or in the matter of a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day. ¹⁷ These are a shadow of what was to come; the substance is the Messiah.

¹⁸ Let no one disqualify you, insisting on ascetic practices and the worship of angels, claiming access to a visionary realm and inflated without cause by his unspiritual mind. ¹⁹ He doesn't hold on to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and tendons, develops with growth from God.

²⁰ If you died with the Messiah to the elemental forces of this world, why do you live as if you still belonged to the world? Why do you submit to regulations: ²¹ "Don't handle, don't taste, don't touch"?

²² All these regulations refer to what is destroyed by being used up; they are commands and doctrines of men.

²³ Although these have a reputation of wisdom by promoting ascetic practices, humility, and severe treatment of the body, they are not of any value against fleshly indulgence.

We want to grow!

Battling the flesh and a deeper experience of God

The Colossian situation

2 sales pitches

Paul's aim (Vs 8)

Don't be kidnapped by them!

1. Cos you already have it all in Jesus! (Vs 9-15)

- a. You've been filled! (Vs 9-10)

- b. You've been circumcised! (Vs 11-15)
 - New person
 - Forgiven

2. Cos they're selling koyok*! (Vs 16-23)

- a. Substance-less religious practices (Vs 16-17)

- b. Headless, enslaving and useless ascetic-mysticism (Vs 18-23)

**A phoney or fraudulent item that promises much but delivers little*