

Colossians -14

E. Material relevant to the study of Colossians 2:4--23

1. Notes on Structural arrangement:

a. Three warnings:

(1) 2:4

(2) 2:8

(3) 2:18

b. Note a "uniform" progression of thought in the material against which we are warned:

(1) An appeal to our "fleshly" perception

(2) A challenge of authority: the "learned" persons

(3) A denial of Christ's adequacy or sufficiency

(4) A substitution of human wisdom

(5) The resultant enslavement of the believer

c. Note the developing Christology and its practical applications:

(1) 2:6

(2) 2:9

(3) 2:13

(4) 2:17

(5) 2:20

2. Brief note on the application of this passage to the present church/society world relationship

3. Further Questions:

v. 5...How is Paul "present in spirit"? Note his feeling for the church and the assurance he feels regarding the believing community.

v. 6...What is the point "as you have received Christ"..the thrust of the question is on "as"

v. 7...What is the program of growth for Christian life?

v. 8...What are the "basic principles of this world" and what is wrong with them?

v. 9...Why the emphasis on "bodily form"

v. 11-12...What is the relationship between circumcision and baptism? Is there a conflict in the nature of the speech figures used in this analogy?

v. 14..What is the "written code"?

v. 15..Who are the "powers and authorities"? Note the means of triumph.