

# The Hope of Glory:

An Exposition of Colossians

August 9, 2020

*Sermon 8: Deception & the Hope of Glory, pt. 2*

*Colossians 2:6-12*

**Opening Illustration:** I did my undergraduate work as a music major. In college I had to do a lot of auditioning, especially at first, in order to get into some of the musical groups in the program. One of the more interesting tests that I had to pass was when one of my professors played a note on the piano and told me to remember that note. He then began to play a bunch of different chords on the piano and would routinely ask me to sing that note. He wanted to see that if what I heard had too much impact on what I sang. It didn't. Luckily, on that day, whatever song he played or whatever chord he played, I was able to fix my mind on the note I was given and perform it on demand. You see, the most important part of that test was whether or not I would be distracted by background music or gently led by what was going into my ears to give up the note I was given and start to sing the note that seemed to match the song he was currently playing. In Christianity we face a similar test. We have been given a message...a doctrinal and practical truth...a gospel...the hope of glory. It seems that every day the noise in this culture and the presuppositions all around are changing and the gospel that we have received sounds more and more out of step...or out of tune with our surroundings. Can we hold the note? Can we continue to tell the truth, but more pressingly, perhaps, can we continue to hold on to the truth, even when everything around us is dissonance? How about this? Can we keep our focus on Jesus?

## I. Introduction—faith, focus and the bait and switch.

### A. My experience of the bait and switch.

1. What do I mean by the expression “bait and switch”?
2. **ILL:** How I was wooed to Christianity, and my first taste of the ugliness of the bait and switch.
3. **ILL:** The first Baptist “retreat” I ever went on in college.

### B. The true nature of the bait and switch—*The schemes of the world try to plunder the hope of glory.* (Colossians 2:1-23)

1. Legalism robs you of the hope of glory.
2. Formalism robs you of the hope of glory.
3. Ceremonialism robs you of the hope of glory.
4. Heresy robs you of the hope of glory.

See v. 17- These things are but shadows, Christ is the substance

## II. The Gospel is all about Jesus. Is your life?

### A. The Exhortation v. 6—*In the same way you received Jesus, walk in Him.*

**Point:** It was Jesus that you received! Walk in Him, which is to say, live your life in Him.

**Point:** Think back with me to the day you became a Christian. Remember the early times, when you felt like you would do anything simply because of the joy of walking with God. Do you live your life like that now? Be honest with yourself, have the things of Christ become a duty to you, when in the past they were pure delight? What happened? What changed? I think I know what changed. You received a gospel of grace and then began to live a life of legalistic slavery to works. You started simply amazed by the beauty of Christ, but somewhere along the line, the background music changed and you forgot the original note.

#### 1. We come to Christ:

- a. In the truth—It was the truth of the gospel that inspired us to respond.
  - i. Remember, we devoured the Bible because it was beautiful and true.
  - ii. How about now? Do you walk in the word with the same thrill...the same abundance of joy?
- b. In humility—It was the knowledge of our sinfulness that forced us to our knees.
  - i. Remember, you were a bankrupt beggar when you first came to Christ. You knew what you deserved, and you knew what you received.

- ii. How about now? Have you begun to think of yourself as something better than you are? Are you impressed with your knowledge? Are you impressed with your holiness? Are you impressed with you? How did we go from being absolutely convinced of our own wretchedness to being self-righteous, self-important, and self-obsessed?
  - c. By sheer grace—It by the glory of His acceptance that we repented and turned to Him.
2. We must, therefore, live:
- a. In the truth
  - b. In humility
  - c. By sheer grace
3. Why?
- a. Because what we are saved by is what we are saved to.
  - b. Because what we cling to is what we will extend to others.

#### **B. The Explanation v. 7**

- 1. We are rooted in Him.
- 2. We are built up in Him.
- 3. We are established in Him.
- 4. We overflow with gratitude to Him.

### **III. The Gospel is all about Jesus. Is the church?**

#### **A. The Command v. 8a**

- 1. What is commanded?
  - a. See to it that nobody takes you captive.

**ILL:** Don't talk to strangers! Why do we teach our children not to talk to strangers and to be careful about who they interact with online? It is because there are creepers out there who will snatch them away and make them slaves. I wish that this was not the case in our world in 2020, but it is. In the same way, SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING, we have to be careful not to put ourselves in situations in which we may be taken captive and forced into a spiritual slavery of legalism. The sad thing is that this danger (the spiritual danger) is often found in the church itself and it takes the forms we will look at in a minute.

- i. Galatians 5:1-10. This passage says it all!

- 2. Who are commanded?
  - a. All of us as individuals.
  - b. All of us as corporate bodies (churches)

**ILL:** Getting honest on an application for a Seminary class. Years ago, I took a seminary class for fun at a seminary in Michigan. As part of the application, I noticed that it said that it was expected of all students that they would not go to the movies. On my application, I wrote, "If you guys are serious about this, please deny my application." Their response: "Well, since you are already a pastor, we will overlook this." As you can guess, I didn't take many classes from there. I did really enjoy the class that I took (and I got a good grade).

#### **B. The Culprits v. 8b**

- 1. Philosophy—"Well, if you look at it this way..."
  - a. **ILL:** Augustine and the question of what God did before He created anything.
  - b. **ILL:** Can God make a boulder so heavy that He Himself cannot lift it?
- 2. Empty deception—flat-out lies.
  - a. There is no shortage of these in the world.
    - i. Examples: false religions, atheism, compromised, liberal Christianity, etc.
  - b. Could we find any amongst ourselves?
- 3. Human tradition—"That's the way we've always done it."
- 4. Common sense (so called)—"Well, obviously..."
  - a. **Proverbs 14:12** There is a way which seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.

#### **C. The Christ vv. 9-12**

- 1. He is the human embodiment of God. Compare Colossians 1:19

2. He is the One who completes us.
3. He is the One who rules over all.
  - a. **Romans 14:4** Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.
4. He is the means by which we are set apart.
5. He is the body into which we are baptized. [death, burial, resurrection]

#### **IV. Conclusions/Applications**

##### **A. Come to Jesus the right way!**

1. End your rebellion!
2. Lay down your idols!
3. Turn from whatever is a rival of God in your heart!

##### **B. Walk with Jesus the right way!**

1. Lay down your idols...even your churchy ones!
2. Turn from whatever is a rival of God in your heart...even the churchy things!
3. Turn from your independence, self-reliance, self-righteousness