

# PREACHING THE OLD PATHS PT 9

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*“Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein. 17 Also I set watchmen over you, saying, Hearken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, We will not hearken. 18 Therefore hear, ye nations, and know, O congregation, what is among them. 19 Hear, O earth: behold, I will bring evil upon this people, even the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not hearkened unto my words, nor to my law, but rejected it.” Jer 6:16-19.”*

We continue this morning on our studies of: “Preaching the Old Paths.” We have set forth before you 6 of the many truths found in the Bible.

- 1. To preach the OLD Paths is to PREACH the TRUTH about God.**
- 2. To preach the OLD Paths is to PREACH the TRUTH about Man.**
- 3. To preach the OLD Paths is to PREACH the TRUTH about Salvation.**
- 4. To preach the OLD Paths is to PREACH the TRUTH about Christ.**
- 5. To preach the OLD Paths is to PREACH the TRUTH about Word of God.**
- 6. To preach the OLD Paths is to PREACH the TRUTH about Doctrine.**

This is our 9th message on our subject of Preaching the Old Paths and our 5th on **To preach the OLD Paths is to PREACH the TRUTH about Jesus Christ.**

We have been looking at the book of Colossians chapters 1 & 2 to speak on the Doctrine of Christ. The whole essence of the book of Colossians is glorious set forth in truth that Christ has PREEMINENCE in all things! Col.1:18 again, “*And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.*” I have set forth 4 things regarding the DOCTRINE OF CHRIST from Colossians 1 & 2:

- I. The Similitude of Christ.** (Col.1:15-17)
- II. The Supremacy of Christ.** (Col.1:18)
- III. The Sufficiency of Christ.** (Col.2:1-8 &10)
- IV. The Sovereignty of Christ.** (Col.2:9)

We have seen the first 3 points on the Similitude, Supremacy and Sufficiency of Christ where we have seen Paul admonishing and encouraging the saints at Colossae and this week we shall Lord willing conclude on the Sufficiency of Christ as we shall consider Paul’s warning to the saints at Colossae, under The Deception in verse 8. We have outline for you the first 10 verses of chapter 2.

1. The Determination (Verses 1-3)
2. The Discernment (Verse 4)
3. The Dedication (Verses 5-7)
4. The Deception (Verse 8)
5. The Divinity (verse 9)
6. The Declaration (verse 10)

We covered so much ground last week and therefore will give you a very short recap. We've seen that Paul was agonizing over the various influences and threats that were endangering and attacking the Church. He encourages them on their walk. Paul was beholding their order and the steadfastness of their faith in Christ and reminds them they are built up, rooted and stablished in the faith and therefore should be abounding in thanksgiving. We've seen the Determination in verses 1-3; the Discernment in verse 4; the Dedication in verses 5-7 last week and thus this morning in verse 8 we shall see the Deception and hopefully conclude in verse 10 with the Declaration.

Col.2:8 says; "*Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.*" Here in this verse again we see the Deception; this was not only applicable to the first century saints but also to our day of 21<sup>st</sup> century saints.

After Paul gives us all the positive encouragements he now turns to the negative instruction to help us maintain a healthy Christian walk. He begins with a very important and applicable word, 'BEWARE.' We are commanded to beware that is, to take heed, be careful, be cautious, look out, watch out, to be alert, to be watchful and or to pay attention. The Greek word for beware is '*blepo*' which means to watch within the context of severe spiritual dangers, not so much that they would lose their salvation, but it could cause them to stumble and fall. This is a severe and sobering warning to which each and every child of God must take heed unto. This Greek word is both in the present tense and imperative, that is this is a lifelong habitual practice and this is not some suggestion or advise, no, no, no my dear ones, this is a command. It's with a capital B, capital E capital W and so forth, BEWARE! We are COMMANDED to be on guard, BEWARE! This word is also in the active voice which means that we must initiate this action in our walk before God. In other words we must be on constant guard, by being continually watchful against that which is contrary to the word of God. By instructing this Paul is not telling us we are to have a mean, hateful or judgmental spirit towards others no, but to have a careful, vigilant and watchful discerning spirit. We must have great discernment to equip us against deception. Paul again is using a military term in exhorting and warning us, that is; beware lest any man or is you wish any teaching take you or carry you off as a captive, "*Beware lest any man*

spoil you...” Paul is very clear in saying, “...**lest any man...**” He is so clear and succinct to warn against the teachings of any man, any person, yea anything and or any teaching which is contrary to sound doctrine as set forth in the Bible, thus we must be on constant guard. We need to have our spiritual antennae turned on 24/7.

The problem with most professing Christians is that they are not able to discern the essence of doctrinal error because of weak theology and because of no interest in reading. Sad to say but a word that describes most of Christendom in our day is IGNORANCE, ignorance of the Bible, ignorance of TRUTH and worse ignorance of ERROR! Why because most Christians will not read, they will not read the Bible nor will they read good books. So sad that most professors don't even know the verses in 2 Cor. 11:3 & 4, “*But I fear, lest by any means, as the **serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.** 4 For if he that cometh preacheth **another Jesus**, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive **another spirit**, which ye have not received, or **another gospel**, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.*” How sad that, many; who profess faith in Christ have no clue that there is, another Jesus, another spirit and another gospel. Paul continues in the same chapter in verses 13-15, “*For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. 14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.*” Thus, I have to repeat myself and say again that the word that describes most of Christendom in our day is IGNORANCE! I don't say this with a condescending attitude or with a condemning or harsh spirit, no my dear ones, I say this with fear and trepidation; I say this with a concern heart because we are in such a sad state spiritually. I use ignorance in sense of lack of knowledge or no knowledge which is a Biblical term, Isaiah 5:13, “*Therefore **my people** are gone into captivity, because they **have no knowledge**: and their honourable men are famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst.*” Hosea 4:6, “***My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge**: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.*”

I don't know about you but when you talk with professing Christians about these texts in 2 Cor.11, they look at you as though you are from another planet. There a few possible reasons for this, here are 6 of the many:

- (1) Pastors who do not teach them these things which we just read, they feed a lot of milk and no meat. They teach them about finances, family and the future but on doctrinal issues, ZERO! Now, not saying that these things are not important, they have their place, but when you only have nice and spice sermons, it will make you a weak Christian. We need meat brethren.
- (2) Sermons that are based on pure sentiments, which are weak and saturated in easy believism.
- (3) The absence of absolutes in the pulpit.

- (4) Many have replaced the gospel with psycho-heresy.
- (5) The de-emphasizing of Apologetics and Systematic Theology.
- (6) Last and not least and which I believe is most of the problem, because it's too easy to just blame the preachers, it's just plain laziness and neglect of spiritual things. There is no excuse for this, that is; for laziness and spiritual negligence, this is just being irresponsible!

When Paul says, BEWARE, he is not just speaking to the pastors, but to everyone who names the name of Christ! Every child of God is individually responsible to God and to their own selves! Jude again commands us, "...that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." The phrase, "...that ye should earnestly contend..." is the Greek word, "**epagonizmai**" and it is used only here in the whole New Testament Greek. It is a compound word from the prefix, "**epi**" which means to, upon or against and "**agonizomai**" which means to enter into a contest as in gymnastic games, but also used as a military term to contend with your adversaries in a fight and battle. When combine it means to fight and contend for something. You can see the impact of the word again in the phrase, "...that ye should earnestly contend..." It means to have conviction in exerting and to labor fervently, to strive, to struggle and to contend with an adversary. This is also the idea of Paul in Ephesians 6 about the spiritual warfare. Notice the following verses which use the root word "**agonizomai**."

- Luke 13:24, our Lord Jesus Christ in speaking about salvation says, "**Strive** to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able."
- I Cor.9:25, "And every man that **striveth** for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible."
- 1 Tim.4:10, "For therefore we both **labour** and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God..."
- 1 Tim.6:12, "**Fight** the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses."
- 2 Tim.4:7, "I have fought a good **fight**, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." If you name the name of Christ this morning, will you be able to say the same thing? That you fought a good fight, that is; that you earnestly contended for the faith that was delivered unto you?

This word, "**agonizomai**" was used in ancient Greece with reference to a literal fighting with weapons. So again, Paul with an encouraging admonition and a sobering warning to the Colossians and to us also says powerfully, "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ." Beware, lest any man spoil you, be careful that no one takes you captive or that they carry you off as captive or as spoil. Paul uses the indicative mood here, lest any man spoil you, which points to a severe and real danger and not some hypothetical idea, but a real danger. Lightfoot in his commentary says, "The form of the sentence is a measure of the

*imminence of the peril.*” Another writer says, *“Is some seductive teaching or mystical practice beginning to plunder “the treasure” you possess in Christ? Paul says “keep your eyes open” to this ever present danger.*” The word spoil is an old term, of when the opposing enemy would win the battle and carry off the booty, the loot, the treasure, which is the spoil, that is; to plunder the spoils by force, taking them by force, by stripping off the weapons or arms of the slain enemy. Here it is used in the sense that someone would lead you away from the truth. The battle is always on between TRUTH and ERROR, it never stops and this is why we must constantly be on guard. This is also the idea of Peter in 1 Peter 5:8 & 9, *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: 9 Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.”*

Our Lord Jesus Christ clearly warned against false teachers with the same word, BEWARE:

- Matt.7: **“Beware of false prophets,** *which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.”* In on other place Christ said:
- Matthew 16:6, *“Then Jesus said unto them, **Take heed and beware** of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.”*
- Matthew 24:4, *“And Jesus answered and said unto them, **Take heed that no man deceive you.**”*
- Mark 4:24, *“And he said unto them, Take heed what ye hear: with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you: and unto you that hear shall more be given.”*
- Luke 8:18, *“Take heed therefore how ye hear...”*

Notice again the warning of Paul and the 4 specifics he uses in commanding us to BEWARE:

1. Philosophy.
2. Vain Deceit.
3. The Tradition of men.
4. The Rudiments of the world.

All four of these are contrasted with: AND NOT AFTER CHRIST! Why does he bring in Christ at this point? I'm glad you asked, to remind us of what he said prior to this in verse 3 *“In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”* Here is the Maldonado translation: Do not my dear ones under any circumstances allow anyone or anything to take you away, spoil you, to fool you or to take you captive from all the glorious treasures of wisdom and knowledge in the blessed storehouse of heavenly wisdom we have in Christ!

Col.2:8-10, look at the whole line of thought by Paul, *“Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, **and not after Christ. 9 For in him** [Or BECAUSE in HIM] dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. 10 And [The thought continues in verse 10, BECAUSE ye...] ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power.”*

When you read verses 1-10 as a whole text or thought, you easily see what Paul is doing, as he makes a complete contrast and distinction to differentiate between the riches of Christ and the humanistic mindset of the world. Again in verses 2 & 3, *“That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and **unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding**, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; 3 In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”* It says unto the riches, the wealth, that is, attaining the wealth and riches we have in Christ. The basic teaching of Paul is that we are to have a complete and clear understanding of divine truth, to some assurance of understanding, no; to a full assurance or if you wish a full conviction of understanding of the truth of God. John Flavel writes, *“A saving, though an imperfect knowledge of Christ will bring us to heaven, but a regular and methodical, as well as a saving knowledge of him, will bring heaven into us.”* In other words, this full assurance is a full conviction and also a full persuasion that you comprehend the truth, it is not just a mental assent of acknowledgement to truth, but of being convince and persuaded, this is THE TRUTH! The word understanding gives the idea of the power of comprehending and that with the capacity to apprehend the essence of truth, that is; the perception and discernment of divine truth. Now this wealth of riches and this full assurance of understanding is qualified as the *“...the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; 3 In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”* Notice how that no sooner does he say this that he warns in verse 4: *“And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words.”* Notice how he is making that distinction between the wealth and riches in Christ in whom are hid all the TREASURES of wisdom and knowledge in contrast to the wisdom of man. Then Paul reminds them of the blessings in verse 5-7 which we saw last week and then warns them again in verse 8 and then solidifies the blessings we have in verse 9 & 10.

Thus what we have here again is the fact, that in CHRIST we have a storehouse of riches, we have the treasures of wisdom and knowledge in contrast to the ideologies of the world, to which Paul divides into 4 specifics: Notice again the warning of Paul which he prefaces with BEWARE:

1. Philosophy.
2. Vain Deceit.
3. The Tradition of men.
4. The Rudiments of the world.

All four of these are contrasted with: AND NOT AFTER CHRIST! Paul very carefully methodically brings it all together that if you understand your position in Christ and that you are totally complete in HIM, we do not need to run after these things that basically take you away from Christ and His WORD. Now, by no means am I saying that we can't use these things in our everyday life, but what I talking about and what I believe Paul is indicating here is when we start bringing these things into the church. These things have their place in the world, but when we start leaning on them to help us grow or get closer to God, in the end they take us away from God. This is what has happen to the churches of our day, they have brought in the ideologies of the world in mass pragmatism into the

church and we have seen how it has affected the church in our day. We must understand that the WORD of God is diametrically opposed to the secular humanistic ideology that permeates in the world today even in the aspect in its political correctness. Ps.106:35 & 36, *“But were mingled among the heathen, and learned their works. 36 And they served their idols: which were a snare unto them.”* The end result is seen verse 39, *“Thus were they defiled with their own works, and went a whoring with their own inventions.”* The following are the words of Jesus Christ to the church of the Laodiceans in Rev.3:16-22, *“So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. 17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: 18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. 19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. 20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. 21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. 22 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.”* I would venture to say that this 21<sup>st</sup> century church no doubt is a carbon copy of the Laodicean church. One of the reasons is because of the negligence of spiritual truth in exchange for, philosophy, vain deceit, the traditions of men and after the rudiments and as Paul clearly says ***and not after Christ!*** We will Lord willing speak on all these 4 tonight because time has escape me this morning, but I hope that at least we have captured the mindset of Paul in his warning to us:

*“For I would that ye knew what great conflict I have for you, and for them at Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh; 2 That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; 3 In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. 4 And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words. 5 For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the stedfastness of your faith in Christ. 6 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: 7 Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. 8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. 9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. 10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power.”*

I hope you see why I could not just scant over these verses too quickly or hastily, thus we no doubt see THE SUFFICIENCY of CHRIST as our Savior and LORD and that He has the PREEMINENCE over all things! The Apostle Paul clearly identifies the ultimate threats that come against the individual Christian and the New Testament Church.

Now, we also need to understand that there is also an underlying source of these threats, Satan himself. From the beginning of the New Testament Church, Satan has sought to undermine and destroy by his subtlety and subversion in attacking the church through the infiltration of these 4 things mentioned. As Bill Downing has said which I whole heartily believe, *“Satan ran out of heresy by the 3<sup>rd</sup> century and everything now is but the rehashing of it.”* The church has always been under attack and tonight Lord willing we shall look at these 4, but as we conclude this morning let me just mention some of those things that are at present

threats to the church and I'm not even dealing with the cults, these are some things you find in evangelical churches of our day:

- (1) The Arminian Free will gospel.
- (2) Hyper-Calvinism.
- (3) Antinomianism, which is now being labeled: New Covenant Theology.
- (4) Legalism.
- (5) Dispensationalism.
- (6) Charismatic/Pentecostalism.
- (7) Charismatic Calvinism which is an oxymoron.
- (8) Continuationism in contrast to Cessationism.
- (9) Ecumenicalism.
- (10) Higher Criticism.
- (11) Textual Criticism.
- (12) Open Theism.
- (13) Neo-Gnosticism.
- (14) Liberalism.
- (15) Rationalism.
- (16) Psychoheresy.
- (17) The teaching of Necessary Consequence.
- (18) Neo-evangelicalism.
- (19) The Emergent church.
- (20) It used to be Modernism, but now it's Post-modernism.
- (21) Carnal Christian Theory.
- (22) Sacramentalism.
- (23) Evolution
- (24) Theistic Evolution.
- (25) Atheism



- (26) Secular Humanism.
- (27) Then of course those 4 things Paul has mentioned: Philosophy.
- (28) Vain Deceit.
- (29) The Tradition of men.
- (30) The Rudiments of the world.

There is a sense that we can say that every heresy and every battle is basically an attack on the Word of God. Every false doctrine either directly or indirectly attacks the Word of God. In the past 3 centuries the battle has been wage against the word of God. I hope that you see the severity and relentless attack against God and His Word, it has not change since the Garden when Satan led the attack against God's Word when he boldly declared, "...**Yea, hath God said...**" It has not change, but continues in this 21<sup>st</sup> century. So regardless of the battle that rages over the Word of God in the past and even present attacks on the Word of God we must arm ourselves with the shield of faith and the sword of God's Holy Word. We must equip and support ourselves with the Wisdom of God's Word in order to combat and defend ourselves from these vicious attacks on the Divine and Written Word! Consider this next quote, "*In the past two centuries the assaults against the Scriptures have become increasingly violent.*" No doubt in my mind that we are living in the time which the Apostle Paul wrote about, "*Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away [their] ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.*" 2 Timothy 4:2-4.

Regardless of the cost we must be royal bearers of the standard which our Lord Jesus Christ proclaimed without wavering conviction, "...**THY WORD IS TRUTH.**" John 17:17, or else we find ourselves asking with Pilate, "...**WHAT IS TRUTH?**"

Now, these challenges which we face today regarding the attacks on the Word of God are rooted in a number of sources: German rationalism, higher criticism, enlightenment thought and so forth evolved into what is called Christian liberalism today. As we go back a couple hundred years, the father of such liberalism is usually recognized as Friedrich Schleiermacher (1768-1834), professor of theology at the University of Berlin. As he started to unite many popular philosophical systems with Christianity, he started to distrust any form of authority. One writer makes this point concerning Schleiermacher, "*But he did not want to reject Christianity altogether, recognizing that mankind needs religion. He reasoned that propositional revelation about God may be faulty or even nonexistent but, since man needs religious experience, the outer shell of Christianity must be retained. The Bible may be untrustworthy, shot through with error, unreliable for developing a living framework, but it is still possible to experience God through religious expressions. The foundation may be gone, but somehow the walls are still standing. Such people are convinced that they encounter God as they connect with the 'divine spark' found in every human, or through mystical practices, or through subjective experiences. They are unconcerned with the authority of Scripture—to them the Bible is riddled with errors, but that does not matter as long as they can have an existential relationship with God—or at least, so they think.*" Such humanistic ideology mask under the aspect of Christianity has set forth the paradigm of the free will false

gospel being propagated in our day among Evangelical Churches, yea most Baptist Churches.

Iain H. Murray's Evangelicalism Divided: A Record of Crucial Change in the Years 1950 to 2000. In his first chapter on, Setting the Scene, he discusses the beginning of Schleiermacher and its awful results. Speaking of Schleiermacher, regarding his book "On Religion," in 1799 Murray says, "His approach was new: adopting the Romanticism of Rousseau and the pantheism of other contemporary philosophers, Schleiermacher came forward to assert **that religion is primarily not a matter of doctrine but rather of feeling, intuition and experience.** The religious instinct is an element in man's nature independent of thought, and by it all men are united to the 'spirit of the universe'." Is not this the predominant ideology of modern day religion, throw away doctrine and let's just hold hands and we can win the world to Jesus, this no doubt shows the awful effects of liberalism, modernism and post-modernism of our day?.

Murray continues, "Devotion to Christ, he taught, is the essence of true religion, and in order to come to feel devotion all that is needed is faith. Yet faith, as he understood it, does not arise from truth and knowledge received from without; **it springs rather from man's own intuition, from his own consciousness. To have faith, therefore, requires no revealed truths, not authoritative Bible.** But how can men discover such truths as Christ's virgin birth, his atoning death and resurrection outside of themselves? To this Schleiermacher would reply that, whether these statements are truths or not, they are not necessary to evangelical devotion. In other words, he remained committed to the starting point of his first book: the supposition that true religion belongs essentially to the realm of experience – **religion is a matter of a well-disposed heart and devout feelings.**" (Bold letters and underline are mine for emphasis.)

One last quote by Murray, "Schleiermacher is correctly viewed as the chief source of the massive change which has occurred in the historic Protestant denominations during the last two hundred years. Eighteenth-century rationalism rejected all truths which could not be squared with human reason...Christianity, it was concluded, could be successful irrespective of whether Scripture was preserved as the Word of God, and this thought was appealing as the theological scholarship of the nineteenth century became increasingly destructive. Further, it followed that, if it is the 'eternal verities' known to the human consciousness which constitute the essence of Christianity, then the 'dogmas' of Scripture do not need to be preached. Indeed Schleiermacher barred doctrinal preaching from the pulpit. Experience, not teaching, has to be the object of the preacher."

Of course this led to the teachings of Julius Wellhausen, who initiated higher criticism and modernism which spawn textual criticism that continues in our day. Wellhausen instead of agreeing with The Mosaic authorship of the Pentateuch to which our Lord Jesus authenticated in Luke 24:27, "And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself." Along with verses 44 & 45, "And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. 45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures." John 5:46, "For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me." Did Christ ask for the originals, no and all He had were copies. Anyway, Wellhausen instead of agreeing with The Mosaic authorship of the Pentateuch he presented the idea of the authors, E, J, P and D and others. EJPJ or also known as JEDP theory also called the Documentary

Hypothesis. These self-proclaimed scholars also attacked the credibility of the book of Isaiah, denying that Isaiah wrote it, they fabricated the “Deutero-Isaiah Theory,” teaching that 2 men wrote Isaiah. There is a lot involved in this but the sad thing is that we are still reaping from this and that the Word of God is still under attacked presently.

As we conclude I want to use two examples from the past of France and Germany to warn us, remember also the words of Philosopher George Santayana, *“Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.”*

1<sup>st</sup>. We shall look at France: In the mid 1800’s God sent France, the French Revolution because of their prior attacks on Christians for 120 years who believed the Bible. Many were called Huguenots. The sad thing is that they prior to this they had John Calvin and other great men, but the French people rejected and refused the Reformation and along with it, solid Calvinistic theology. Christianity and religion was rejected and they begin to persecute those who embraced it. For 120 years Baptists and Protestants were hunted down. In the 16<sup>th</sup> there was open persecution and by the 17<sup>th</sup> century it was so intense that it became known as “the Dragonnades.” The borders of France were closed and watch in order to arrest any who tried to escape. No Christians were allowed to leave to Europe and or to England. I will not share the excruciating tortures that were devised to persuade those fleeing to subscribe to the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. It had the opposite effect as they tried to stamp out Christianity of anything that had to do with the Bible; their actions hardened the French people as they revolted with such inhumanity in the name of God and therefore turned instead to the philosophies of rationalism.

You see the French people had rejected the truth and godly ministers of the gospel and now they accepted the philosophies and ideology of John Locke, Thomas Hobbes, Diderot, Rousseau and Voltaire and thus embrace the concept that truth is relative and so nothing is supernatural and miracles can be explained away and therefore there is no need of god greater than themselves, REVOLUTION ERUPTED! One writer says, *“Blood literally flowed in the streets of Paris, Marseilles and in many other French cities. Rivers carried the bodies of those who had been butchered, the people of France assaulted the people of the Book.”* The writer continues, *“In the latter quarter of the 1700’s the French people threw off the godly restrictions of Law and embraced a spirit of lawlessness...they destroyed houses of worship and made bonfires of Bibles and hymnbooks.”* The French people persecuted Christians for about 120 years and now God punished France with a terrible revolution and then in the 18<sup>th</sup> century France embraced communism in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries France has embrace socialism. God has not sent a revival to France since the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The French people refused and rejected the truth of God’s Word so God has taken it from them. This is the judgment that God brings upon an ungodly nation. God help America because as Ps.9:17 says; *“The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.”*

2<sup>nd</sup> Let us consider Germany: Germany was also blessed with great men and one of them is of course Martin Luther who ignited the Protestant Reformation. Germany later like France embraced rationalism. The difference was that Germany did something no one else had done, or better yet no other country ever had as they viciously attacked the

authority, sufficiency and the credibility of the Scriptures and they sought so cleverly to do this under the appearance and pretense of scholarship. This rationalism so steep in man's philosophy produced "Higher Criticism" in the seminaries of Germany. This continues in our day in biblical criticism. Now, we know since the beginning man has attacked the Scriptures in all ages, but never had a nation truly adopted it and promoted it. I do not want to repeat myself here but I've already shared about Schleiermacher and Wellhausen. France had persecuted the people of God but Germany willfully attacked the WORD of God. In France they tried to annihilate the people of God in Germany they tried to destroy the WORD of God. Rationalism in the 1850's was welcomed into the theological schools with open arms in Germany and thus many young men were corrupted with false teaching concerning the WORD of God. Since that time Germany has not experienced revival. In like manner as God withheld revival from France and sent them a bloody revolution, God now withheld revival from Germany and sent them also a bloody revolution which we call Nazism. We all know what Hitler did to not only Jews but also Christians, as he also burned down places of worship and burned Bibles.

Again these two examples from the past of France and Germany should warn us and ought to bring fear to our hearts as we see America is now following in their footsteps, again, remember the saying of George Santayana, "*Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.*" This is the judgment that God brings upon an ungodly nation. God help America because again Ps.9:17 says; "*The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.*"

This, I hope will help us to take heed to the words of the Apostle Paul in Col.2:8, "*Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.*" In Col.2:1-10, no doubt we see the Sufficiency of our Lord Jesus Christ, but again the question this morning is do you know HIM? Is He your LORD? Is He your Savior? Do you have this relationship with Christ? Oh to God we pray again that you know this Christ who is both Jesus and LORD?

This again is the Jesus whom we preach to you this morning who is the Head of all Principality and ALL power, that is, all power in heaven and all power in earth, are you willing to face Him when you die? Are you willing to face Him who has all power and all authority to put you in hell if you die in your sins? Remember the words of Christ in Matthew 10:28, "*And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*" Jesus has preeminence over all things in heaven and in earth and He is the Head of all Principality and ALL power, and the question therefore this morning is, does Jesus Christ have first place in your life? Does He have the preeminence in your life? Oh to God I pray He does! Come to Christ this morning in faith, trusting, believing and laying hold of HIM as your LORD and SAVIOR? Do not my dear ones face eternity without CHRIST! Let's Pray: