To Dr. Rick Griffith Student: Tjen Ie Hoa Speaker#11, Mb: 147

**Does Christ Alone Enough?**

**Colossians 2:8-9**

Cyclical Inductive Outline Manuscript

**Topic** : Christ

**Subject** : The reason we should trust Christ alone instead of deceptive philosophy

**Complement** : is because Christ is God

**Purpose** : Listeners will trust Christ as God over deceptive philosophy

**Introduction**

1. Recent shocking news is that some doctors performed unnecessary surgeries. The story started from Jonathan Stelly, a professional baseball player who was undergo a surgery to have a pace maker implanted into his body. He allowed the doctor to do this operation although he knew he will not be able to play baseball anymore after the operation. He decided this because he trusted this doctor. But he has trusted the wrong person. After some other doctors checked again on him, actually he only need blood pressure medicine instead of the pace maker. So the doctor that he trusted has done malpractice on him. The doctor has done unnecessary surgery that caused him losing his career. But this was not the only case. The data was really shocking because there were 1000 doctors who had performed ten thousands of unnecessary surgeries. These surgeries has caused the victims having serious permanent injuries and even deaths. This story reminds that we should trust the right person. Then, whom do you trust?

2. Do you trust Christ, but you also add unnecessary things to your faith in Christ? For example: in order to be more spiritual you do fasting, busy helping ministry in the church.

3. Why you should trust Christ alone instead of all the religious practises?

4. This was the teaching of Paul in his letter to the Colossians. When the Christians in Colossians were facing false teachings, Paul wrote his letter to teach them the right doctrine and the right manner of the true believers of Christ in order to overcome the false teachings.

5. Today's text brings out three reasons that our faith in Christ is sufficient instead of deceitful philosophy. Paul reminds that it is enough for us to believe Christ and we should not be deceived by the philosophy in Colossians 2:8-9. Let us read together:

"See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ. For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form" (NIV).

Notice that in these passage, Paul contrasted philosophy and Christ to clearly remind the believers that they should trust Christ alone and not the philosophy. Why we should trust Christ instead of philosophy? The first reason is

I. Trust in philosophy is insufficient (8a)

A. Philosophy may bring you away from Christ. (8a)

1. Paul gave warning that there is a danger. This danger was near and urgent.

2. Notice that Paul used the word "captive" in his warning. This warning means the philosophy may anytime take God's people away from Christ. Christ rescues and liberates hostages, but the philosophy enslaves the ones who believe it into error and put them back into the power of darkness.

3. Many people may be attracted to the philosophy. It is a fine sounding argument. It

makes you seems to have more wisdom. In Greco Roman time, philosophy was

famous.

4. Therefore if you do not really understand who Christ is and be rooted in Him,

you may turn away from Christ into this deceitful philosophy.

The other reason you should not trust philosophy is because

B. Philosophy is useless and deceptive. (8a)

1. The philosophy that Paul means is not the general or classical Greek Philosophy but

"the philosophy" which has mere appearance of wisdom and falsely called as philosophy. This kind of philosophy is empty fraud.

2. This philosophy is combination of Phrygian folk belief local folk Judaism and Christianity. Phrygian was a large ancient country in Asia Minor and Colossae is one of its city.

3. This philosophy is opposed by Paul because it is demonic and devalues Christ. Therefore this philosophy is useless and deceptive because it will bring you to nothing.

The second reason to trust Christ over the philosophy is because

II. Philosophy is based on human traditions and demons instead of Christ (8b-d)

A. Philosophy is based on human traditions (8b).

1. The tradition in philosophy is the Pharisaic traditions.

2. Strikingly, this phrase was also used in Jesus saying in Mark gospel to denunciate the Pharisees that they let go the command of God to hold on to human tradition (Mark 7:8, NIV).

3. This tradition is Jewish thought which presented as philosophy.

4. In which they were superficially do their religious ritual instead of obeying God's command.

5. They were having false humility and self righteous, thinking that Jesus did not do enough for them. So they need to add the tradition beside their faith to Jesus.

The reason we should trust Christ over the philosophy is because philosophy is

based on human tradition and also

B. Philosophy is based on demons, not on Christ (8c-d).

1. This philosophy is based on elemental spiritual forces. These are the spirits belonging to this world, spirits that operate in the world, spirits that control the world.

2. The Hellenistic Jewish apologists tried to commend Judaism by presenting the Jewish patriarchs as the discoverers of astrology. They did this to persuade their fellow Jews to adopt their religious practices.

3. The spirits of this world are the opponent of Christ, so this philosophy is not based on Christ. Paul also mentioned that the philosophy is not depend on Christ.

4. The world gives definition to successful life as become wealthy, healthy, or famous instead of become godly. There is nothing wrong if we become wealthy, healthy or famous, but if we are pursuing these things over God, we have been misled by the world.

(The third reason to trust Christ over the philosophy is because)

III. Trust Christ as sufficient for He is God in a human body (9).

A. Christ is the fullness of God

1. In verse 9, the verb "dwell" is written in Greek present tense which means dwell permanently.

2. In this sentence Paul used repetition words "the whole of the fullness" to give emphasis on the full measure of the being of God.

3. So the understanding of this sentence is "It is in Christ alone, that the total of the fullness of the Godhead, permanently dwells in bodily form."

4. This saying has implication that Christ before and after His resurrection has a body. So Christ is the hundred percent human and the hundred percent God.

5. Because Christ is the fullness of God, only He can give you the fullness of life, which no other person cannot give.

6. Paul gives a clear contrast between Christ and the philosophy.

7. In Christ there are the real treasures of wisdom and understanding, but the philosophy is only fine sound arguments.

8. Christ is the fullness of God, but the philosophy is hollow and deceptive because it based on human tradition and demonic.

9. Those Jews traditions which are circumcision, Sabbath and food laws were only shadow, but Christ is the reality of their hope.

10. Therefore Christ brings you into fullness of life, but the philosophy brings you into nothing.

# B. I am going to share a life story of a man who has been transformed by Jesus Christ and

# became a blessing to many people.

# Ludwig Ingwer Nommensen was a Protestant missionary to Indonesia from Germany. He started a church which later became the biggest church in the Batak Toba tribe. He was called the apostle of Batak.

# Nommensen was from a poor family. Since young he was working to help his parents. His father was poor and always sick. He worked as a shepherd at 8 years old and then he also became a farmer worker.

# When he was 12 years old, he was hit by horse carriage and his foot was broken. After the accident, he was bedridden for months. During his sickness, his friends came to tell story about missionaries.

# One day he was reading John 16:23-26 about Jesus saying whoever ask to the Father in heaven, the Father will give it to him. Then he prayed for his healing and he promised that he would go and share the gospel if he healed. God granted his prayer.

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# After being healed, he worked again as a shepherd but he kept remembering his promise to God. He signed up to be a missionary in RMG and being trained for few years. After he appointed as a priest, he went to Sumatera. He stayed in Padang for 2 years to learn the languages and cultures of Batak and Malay. He built good relationship with the people and the kings.

# Nommensen went to the remote area in Silindung, although this area was very dangerous to him. There were some incidents before in Silindung. The missionaries before him was expelled by the tribal and then another 2 missionaries were killed there. Nommensen was almost get killed too.

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# Instead of the huge obstacles he experienced, he did not give up. He started to build a church and a school. God blessed his work, the gospel even shared in many places. He translated the New Testament into Toba language. He published the stories of Batak, he helped the people to improve the farming, he helped financing people to start their own business, he redeemed the slaves, started schools and hospitals. He also started schools for the indigenous evangelists and for teachers. He stayed in Batak until he died in 1918.

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# This life story of Nommensen as an example of a person who trust Christ instead of pursuing the worldly things, he pursuing God's will to reach out to tribal people even risking his life. Until today, the whole Batak people are Christians.

(So what is Paul saying? The whole passage basically say...)

**Conclusion**

1. Trust Christ only not the philosophy because Christ is the preeminent God (MI)

2. Christ is the supreme God, our faith in Christ is sufficient, we do not need the human tradition and other gods. (Restated MI)

3. Knowing who Christ is, let us stand firm in Him, trust Him because He is God who is able give you fullness of life. We don't trust ourselves or others to make us more spiritual or more acceptable to God, instead we trust Jesus Christ is sufficient to make us righteous. Our desire is not to gain knowledge apart from Him, but to be union with Him and to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ for the salvation of all people.

4. Prayer