

*See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ. [9] For in Him all the fulness of Deity dwells in bodily form, [10] and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority; (Col 2:8-10; emphasis mine, gls).*

Webster's New World Dictionary defines the word syncretism as the combination or reconciliation of differing beliefs or practices in religion. Simply, to practice syncretism is to believe that one religion is not enough. I bring this up because, last week, the CBS evening news ran a piece that said the latest trend in religion was just this, to mix one's "brand of Christianity" with several other religious practices from pagan sources. A person practices their Christianity and mixes it with meditation, prayers, and other practices from a variety of other religions. What the news reporter called "new" the Bible has known for centuries.

The apostle Paul spoke against the practice of syncretism in the book of Colossians. The overall theme of Colossians is the all-sufficiency of Christ. I like to say that the theme of Colossians is, "If you have Christ you've got it all!" If a person rightfully wears the name Christian--they need nothing else to save them. Jesus has all the answers to life and the life to come! (Jn. 14:6).

To mix the gospel with other teachings is to destroy its power to save (see Gal. 1:8,9). It is only when the pure seed of the word of God is planted (Lk. 8:11) that a strong Christian (nothing more and nothing less) will grow. Don't fall into the "new" trap of syncretism. Jesus has the power to save (Jn. 8:24). To know Him alone is to be free indeed! (Jn.8:36).

See you Sunday! -gls