

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Colossians 2:6-8**.
- B. Jesus said He is to preach or proclaim release to those who are held captive by sin (Lk. 4:18).
“THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES, AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE DOWNTRODDEN,
- C. Peter said that by what a man is overcome by that he is enslaved. It is possible to be held captive by sin (2Pet. 2:19-20).
For this finds favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a man bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly. For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God.
- D. Our text gives us four things that can put us in captivity. It also gives us some good solutions on how to be released.

I. FOUR THINGS THAT CAUSE CAPTIVITY.

- A. See **Colossians 2:6-8**.
As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude. 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.
- B. First, **philosophy** can take men/women captive.
 1. Philosophy is a deduction based on reasoning. Some beliefs are true but can never save.
 2. Scientists can reason well, but come up with erroneous conclusions.
(Story of frog, cutting off all legs, conclusion is that frog goes deaf.)
 3. Some kinds of philosophies are:
 - a. Humanism -- man is capable of self-fulfillment w/o supernaturalism.
 - b. Atheism -- the set of beliefs that deny the existence of God(s).
 - c. Agnosticism -- the human mind can't know anything outside the physical realm.
 - d. Communism -- an atheistic approach to living w/ownership of all things by society as a whole and not individually.
 4. All of these fail because they are contradiction with the word of God.
- C. Second, **empty deception** can take men/women captive.
 1. Fallacy or falsehood is sometimes seen as truth. A lie told often enough, big enough, and with persuasion is believable.
 2. Satan is a liar. He lied to Eve, and continually lies. He has the world believing his lies (Jn. 8:44).
“You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature; for he is a liar, and the father of lies.
- D. Third, **the traditions of men** can take men/women captive.
 1. When one follows the traditions laid down instead of God's word he/she will become bound by those teachings.
 2. Jesus warned about following tradition, in that it makes void the word of God (Mt. 15:2-3, 6-9).
“Why do Your disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread.” And He answered and said to them, “And why do you yourselves transgress the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition?... 6 he is not to honor his father or his mother.’ And thus you invalidated the word of God for the sake of your tradition. “You hypocrites, rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you, saying, ‘THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME. ‘BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN.’”

- E. Fourth, **the elementary principles of the world** can take men/women captive. They are:
1. **Temporary** (see 1Jn. 2:15-17).
 2. **Transient** (see Mt. 24:36).
 3. **Of little value** (see 1Tim. 4:8).
 4. **Unsatisfactory** (see 2Tim. 3:7).

II. FOUR SOLUTIONS TO THESE KINDS OF CAPTIVITY.

- A. All four of these things; philosophy, empty deception, traditions of men, and the elementary principles of the world can be solved.
- B. One can know the truth, and that truth will set you free (Jo. 8:32).
- C. The cures are:
1. Instead of the traditions of men--JC and His teachings (Col. 2:6; 1Jn. 1:6-7).
(Col. 2:6) As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,
(1Jn. 1:6-7) If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; but if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.
 2. Instead of philosophy--be firmly rooted in spiritual things (Col. 2:7; Lk. 8:4-8).
(Col. 2:7) having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.
(Lk. 8:4-8) And when a great multitude were coming together, and those from the various cities were journeying to Him, He spoke by way of a parable: "The sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell beside the road; and it was trampled under foot, and the birds of the air ate it up. "And other seed fell on rocky soil, and as soon as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. "And other seed fell among the thorns; and the thorns grew up with it, and choked it out. "And other seed fell into the good soil, and grew up, and produced a crop a hundred times as great."
 3. Instead of empty deception--be built up in X (Col. 2:7; Jn. 15:2).
(Col. 2:7) having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.
(Jn. 15:2) "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it, that it may bear more fruit.
 4. Instead of the elementary principles of the world--be established in the faith (Col. 2:7; 1Tim. 4:8).
(Col. 2:7) having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.
(1Tim. 4:8) for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. If we just try to stay away from the things that bring us down we will not grow spiritually.
- B. While shunning that which is wrong, may we resolve to do that which is right.
1. Away from **philosophy** and closer to Biblical spiritual values.
 2. Away from **empty deception** and closer to X.
 3. Away from **the traditions of men** and closer to the word of the God.
 4. Away from **the elementary principles of the world** and closer to a true/abiding faith.
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.