

“Believers Beware”
The Supremacy of Christ Series
Colossians 2:4-23
Pastor Jeff Burkholder
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Here at CBC we will stay the course by avoiding the following errors:

Error 1 Christless Philosophy (Colossians 2:8-15)

“The main idea, then, is that in union with Jesus Christ, our every spiritual need is fully met. Possessing Him, we possess all. There is no need, therefore, for the Christian to turn to any other source for spiritual help. Specifically, Paul intended his readers to understand that it was foolish for them to turn to the philosophy of the Colossian heretics, the ritual of the Mosaic law, or to the spirit-beings (angelic powers) worshiped by the pagan world. All they needed was in Jesus Christ.”

Curtis Vaughan, *Colossians—A Study Guide*,
Zondervan, Grand Rapids, MI, 1973, p. 73.

Error 2 Legalism (Colossians 2:16-17)

“Legalism is the religion of human achievement. It argues that spirituality is based on Christ plus human works. It makes conformity to man-made rules the measure of spirituality. Believers, however, are complete in Christ, who has provided complete salvation, forgiveness, and victory. **Therefore**, Paul tells the Colossians, **let no one act as your judge**. Do not sacrifice your freedom in Christ for a set of man-made rules.”

John MacArthur, *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: Colossians and Philemon*,
Moody Publishers, Chicago, IL, 1992, p. 116.

Error 3 **Mysticism (Colossians 2:18,19)**

“Mysticism may be defined as the pursuit of a deeper or higher subjective religious experience. It is the belief that spiritual reality is perceived apart from the human intellect and natural senses.”

John MacArthur, *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: Colossians and Philemon*, Moody Publishers, Chicago, IL, 1992, p. 120.

“The peril Paul had in mind here was Eastern *mysticism*, the belief that a person can have an immediate experience with the spiritual world, completely apart from the Word of God or the Holy Spirit. The false teachers in Colossae had visions and made contact with angels. In bypassing the Word of God and the Spirit of God, they were opening themselves to all kinds of demonic activity—because Satan knows how to give counterfeit experiences to people (2 Corinthians 11:13-15).”

Warren Wiersbe, *Be Complete*, David C. Cook, Colorado Springs, CO, 1981, p. 103.

Error 4 **Asceticism (Colossians 2:20, 23)**

“An ascetic is one who lives a life of rigorous self-denial. In addition to practicing legalism and mysticism, the Colossian errorists were attempting to gain righteousness through self-denial.”

John MacArthur, *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: Colossians and Philemon*, Moody Publishers, Chicago, IL, 1992, p. 122.

“We must not confuse legitimate Christian discipline with the man-made rules of asceticism. It is one thing to live an ordered Spirit-controlled life (cf. Galatians 5:16ff), born of a desire to be more like God; it is another thing to impose the austerities of asceticism upon one’s self as a means of gaining salvation.”

Curtis Vaughan, *Colossians—A Study Guide*, Zondervan, Grand Rapids, MI, 1973, p. 88.