

## Sunday, February 19, 2023

1 Timothy 4:13, “Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.”

### Title: Focus on Jesus Christ to Avoid Deception

Series: Growing in Our Walk,  
a Journey Through Colossians...4

Text: Colossians 2:16 - 23

Purpose: I want to PERSUADE my congregation to FOCUS on the Lord Jesus Christ to guard against the deception of the devil.

### Introduction:

#### Review of Colossians 2:1 - 15:

- ~ 1. Earnest Prayer of the Holy Spirit Through Paul
- ~ 2. Elude the ‘Wisdom’ That is NOT From Above
- ~ 3. Embrace Christ Jesus the Lord

~ Hebrews 12:1 – 2, “Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, (2) looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.”

### 1. Jesus Christ is the Substance and the Reality:

~ vs. 16 & 17, “Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. (17) These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.”

These things were PROPHETIC of what would be fulfilled in the Lord Jesus Christ. A shadow has no substance and does not reveal the details of the object or the subject.

~ vs. 18, *Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind,”*

~ disqualify - Thayer’s Greek Lexicon, G2603: to be an umpire in a contest, “to decide as umpire against one to declare him unworthy of the prize; to defraud of the prize of the victory”

~ 1 Cor. 9:26, “So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air.”

~ asceticism – severe self-discipline and avoidance of all forms of indulgence, typically for religious reasons.

~ Hebrews 12:1 – 2, see introduction

~ Colossians 3:1 - 10

“If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.”

### 2. Jesus Christ is Our Head:

~ vs. 19, “and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.”

~ Colossians 1:18, “And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.”

~ Colossians 2:10, “and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority,”

~ Ephesians 1:22 – 23, “And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, (23) which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.”

~ Ephesians 4:11 – 12, “And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, (12) to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.”

~ Ephesians 5:23, “For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.”

### 3. Jesus Christ is Our New Life:

~ Colossians 2:20 & 23, “If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations—”

“23) These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.”

~ 2 Corinthians 5:17, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”

~ Galatians 5:16 - 26

### Conclusion:

Holy Spirit Living Breath of God