

## **Are You Drinking the Kool-Aid?**

Ricardo Campos, Teaching Elder Grace Chapel, Orange, CA March 7, 2010

Review:

**Col. 1:1–14**, Paul and Timothy thank God for the Colossians' fruitful walk. Thus, they pray that God will grant them further understanding of His will so that their walk will reach new heights as they thank God for delivering them from the power of darkness.

**Col. 1:15–29**, Christ, the Creator and sustainer of the entire universe, reconciled believers to God through His death in order to one day see them stand holy before Him as His Body. However, they must stay grounded in Him so that they will indeed bring glory to His Body.

### I. Introduction

Have you ever fallen pray to bad advice? Man has an opinion on every facet of life, marriage, wealth, childrearing, sex, etc.; he even thinks he knows the secret to every one of these. But is man's advice really sound, is it something that'll lead to the right path? When Paul wrote to the Colossians, they were being bombarded with man's opinion. But, Paul urges them to stay on the path they're on.

### II. Paul's Mighty Struggle is Designed to Encourage the Colossians and Fully Inform them of God's Mystery (Col. 2:1–3)

Paul, who is currently in prison, wants the Colossians to know that he's struggling intensely to see them reach maturity in Christ. Why is this apostle struggling so intensely? (1) so that the Colossians (and others who haven't seen him) will be thoroughly encouraged and (2) so that they will fully understand God's mystery concerning them and Christ, the One who owns all wisdom and knowledge.

If Christ holds all wisdom and knowledge, where should you go for answers?

III. Paul wants the Colossians to Remain in Christ, the Only True Source of Wisdom and Knowledge, and Beware of the World's Empty Philosophy (Col. 2:4–10)

The Colossians are on the right path; they're producing love and good works (1:4, 6). Thus, Paul doesn't want them to veer off the road. So he encourages them to remain grounded in Christ and warns them not to be taken captive by silver-tongued devils pushing the world's philosophy, which amounts to empty deceit.

We may not face the philosophies the Colossians faced, but man's wisdom is alive and kicking today. An example of it is the film and book, "The Secret." Based on the Law of Attraction, it posits that the secret to life and all your desires is a positive attitude; you must ask, believe, and then you will receive all you wish for.

Notice that at the heart of this "secret" is man; he is his own god. This is nothing new. Satan tried it, but failed, Isa. 14:13–14. He then tempted Adam and Eve with it in the Garden, Gen. 3:5. They tried it and the dead and decaying world we live in is the product of Adam and Eve chasing after the "secret."

Why should you not fall for this? Because you are connected to the One who holds all true wisdom and knowledge: Christ, God in the flesh. Anything that is not according to Him, is useless and empty. It may promise you heaven, but will only bring you misery. If you want to succeed, build on the Rock, Matt. 7:24–27.

IV. CONCLUSION

Man may promise the secret to life, but he cannot deliver. His advice will not only lead you astray, it will make you captive of a philosophy that is empty and full of deceit. If you want the secret to life, why not go to the source of life, the One who created all life and sustains it: Christ. He is the only One who truly holds the wisdom and knowledge you need to succeed in your walk with God.