

**A Journey Through Colossians**  
**Week 11 ~ Some Counterfeit Beliefs Have the Appearance of Wisdom**  
**Colossians 2:4,8 and 16-23**

**Review**

- The true Gospel yields good fruit
- Pray for wisdom and understanding for self and others
- Colossians affirms the preeminence and supremacy of Christ
- We were once enemies of God, now called to suffer and serve with him
- The mysteries of God (Christ in us, the church, etc.) revealed in the Word
- Believers remain forever “in Christ”

**1. Today**

- ◇ Review Paul’s warning to the Colossians about ideas and false teaching that diverts us from the true Gospel
- ◇ Examine multiple translations to gain a better understanding of the risks Christians face regarding false teaching
- ◇ Perform some brief word studies to better understand the methods and strategies used by false teachers
- ◇ Compare false teaching in the Colossian church with today
- ◇ How to avoid being misled or diverted from truth by counterfeit ideas

**2. Paul’s warnings in the text:**

- a. Verse 2:4 - Some may try to delude (deceive, beguile) you with plausible (fine-sounding, persuasive, enticing) arguments
- b. Verse 2:8 – Some may try to take you captive (cheat you, spoil you) by philosophy and empty deceit (hollow and deceptive, vain deceit, high-sounding ideas)
- c. Verse 2:17 – Some may try to get you to focus on the shadow of the things, rather than the substance (reality, body) which is Christ.

**3. Word studies**

**Col 2:8** See to it that no one takes you **captive** (cheats you) through **hollow** (empty) and deceptive philosophy

**Col 2:17** These (religious observances) are a **shadow** of the things that were to come, the reality, however, is found in Christ

**Captive:** “**sylagogeo**” (**Greek**) - - used only once in the New Testament  
Meaning – to carry off as a prey, a booty, to make victims of fraud, seized or robbed using words

How does an idea take someone captive? \_\_\_\_\_

**Hollow (Empty, Vain): “kenos” (Greek)** - - used 18 times in NT; only interpreted as “hollow” one time (in NIV)

Meaning – Useless, foolish, devoid of truth, destitute of spiritual wealth

Give some examples of ideas that are “hollow?” \_\_\_\_\_

**Shadow: “skia” (Greek)** - - used 7 times in NT, 6 interpreted as “shadow”

Meaning – an image cast by an object representing the form of the object rather than the object itself; the shadow points to the object, but has no true value in itself

Give some examples of things that are shadows rather than substance. \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Discussion Question #1** - From today’s selected text alone what were these false teachers emphasizing or turning people to other than Christ?

Verse	False Teachings, Ideas, or Improper Emphasis (Counterfeit Concepts)

**5. Ideas Taught Today that Distort the Gospel?**

Some have “appearance of wisdom” (Col 2:23) or a “form of godliness” (2 Tim 3:5)

**Secular/Humanist Ideas** –

Can Christians have “itching ears?” (see 2 Tim 4:3) \_\_\_\_\_

More Liberal Ideas/More License to Sin	More Rules/Traditions

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**6. Application:** What did Paul want the Colossian Church to Do?

What Does God Want Us to Do Today?

- a. Keep our eyes and focus on \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Stand firm on \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Remember
  - ◇ Heb 13:9 – do not be carried away by strange \_\_\_\_\_
  - ◇ Col 2:3 - all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in \_\_\_\_\_
  - ◇ Col 1:15-23 - the true Gospel is all about what \_\_\_\_\_ has done for us

**How do you:** Turn your eyes upon Jesus, and  
Look full in His wonderful face

**Is this part of your daily living?**

**How can you remind yourself to do this every day?**