

Cults

The answer to all cults is the book of Colossians. If you study this book and hold on to its teachings, cults will not deceive you. Once you know the truth about Jesus you will never be deceived. You will learn that there is no other Person and no other way to eternal life. Only ignorance about Jesus the Messiah, can allow people to be deceived by any cult or false religion. We are to have our roots firmly embedded in Christ. Colossians 2:7; 'Have the roots of your being, deeply planted in Jesus; fixed, founded in Him, being continually built up in Him, becoming increasingly more established in the faith, just as you were taught, and overflowing in it with thanksgiving'. Any religion that does not have its roots in Christianity is false; it is not from God, and we are to ignore the teachings. We are not to pay attention to myths (I Timothy 1:4).

In Colossians 2:8 & 18 we read very strong warnings from Paul about believing in things that are not from God. 'See to it that no one carries you off or makes you captive by his so called philosophy, intellectualism and vain deceit which are idle fantasies and plain nonsense, following human tradition which are men's ideas of the material rather than the spiritual world; just crude notions following the rudimentary and elemental teachings of the universe and disregarding the teachings of Christ. Let no one defraud you by acting as an umpire and declaring you unworthy, and insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, taking his stand on visions he claims to have seen, vainly puffed up by his notions and inflated by his unspiritual thoughts. Such practices have indeed the outward appearance for wisdom in promoting self-imposed rigor of devotion and delight in self-humiliation of the body, but they are of no value in checking the indulgence of the flesh, which is the lower nature'.

There are three more passages of scripture that show us what to avoid: (1) 1 Timothy 4:1, 2, 3 & 7; 'But the Holy Spirit distinctly declares that in latter times some will turn away from the faith, giving attention to deluding and seducing spirits and doctrines that demons teach. Through the hypocrisy and pretensions of liars whose consciences are seared, who forbid people to marry and teach them to abstain from certain foods, which God has created to be received with thanksgiving. Refuse and avoid irreverent legends, profane and impure and godless fictions, mere grandmother's tales and silly myths and express your disapproval of them. Train yourselves towards Godliness.

(2) 2 Timothy 4:3 & 4; 'For the time is coming when people will not tolerate or endure sound instruction but having ears itching for something pleasing, they will gather to themselves one teacher after another to a considerable number, chosen to satisfy their own liking and to foster the errors they hold, and will turn aside from the hearing the truth and wander off into myths and manmade fiction'.

(3) I John 4:1 & 6; 'Beloved, do not put faith in every spirit but test the spirits to discover whether they proceed from God; for many false prophets have gone forth into the world. By this you may know the Spirit of God; every spirit which confesses the fact that Jesus Christ actually has become Man and has come in the flesh is of God. Every spirit which does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh but would annul or destroy Him, is not of God. This is the spirit of the antichrist'. Verse 6b; 'By this we know and recognise the Spirit of Truth and the spirit of error'.

Reading these passages of scripture we can see that there are incorrect beliefs in the modern world just as there was in the apostle's time. Let's go through some verses line by line. We are not to be carried off – that is to believe in Jesus then turn away. Being made captive means to be in bondage to a false belief. Do not listen to philosophy, intellectualism and vain deceit – it is nonsense; idle fantasies; crude notions. To describe some false beliefs, would be Confuciusism, Buddhism, New Age, Darwinism, freemasonry, astrology, science fiction, scientology and the like. People who believe these things are all deluded by seducing spirits and all disregard the teachings of Christ. Self-abasement is the whipping of ones-self. Some people go so far as to have themselves crucified! That is utter foolishness. The worship of angels is sin. Angels are special ministers of God to born-again believers. We are to respect and appreciate them, but we are not to worship them (Hebrews 1:14; Revelation 1:1b; Revelation 19:10). There are several false religions that have been started by people who claim to have seen a vision. Unless God gives the vision, then it is false. Some examples of false religions started by deluded visionaries and false prophets are: Islam, Mormonism, Jehovah's

Witnesses and some break-away Catholic-styled sects. None of these deal with the carnality of the fallen human race, nor do they hold the promise of the reality of eternal life with God. We all need to have our sins washed away by accepting Jesus as our Saviour, and receiving the forgiveness He promises.

Not so long ago, it was accepted that families spent every Sunday morning in church, and for people not to go, was considered an affront by the community. In this day and age, people are sometimes mocked when they say they went off to church. People have turned away from the faith (1 Timothy 4:1). People think they can be 'cleansed' by consuming a vegetarian diet. The inner organs such as the liver and kidneys were designed by God to clean themselves. Going on a 'liver cleansing' diet is foolish and has no value, as we read earlier in Colossians 2:18. Eating a normal healthy diet is enough and to teach others to become vegetarians or to abstain from eating certain foods is an evil teaching. To forbid people from getting married, is also an evil teaching and the two main religions that have their celibate nuns and priests are Buddhism and Catholicism. Godless fictions are things like reincarnation, evolution and even the so-called 'global warming' are a godless fiction. The planet on which we live has a normal cycle of hotter seasons and cooler seasons. In the year 1,000 AD, the planet heated up so much, whole tribes and communities were wiped out. Millions of people died from the heat. We are possibly entering just another warm phase that may last some time – or it may not. There are deluded 'experts' who tell us all about the melting icebergs – but they don't mention the active volcano deep under the sea that is causing the ice to melt. The Bible says in 1 Timothy 4:2, that people who teach these things are not just deluded, they are liars. These scientists are deliberately lying to us about 'global warming' to deceive and lead many astray. The scriptures tell us to avoid these godless fictions and train ourselves towards Godliness.

Many people don't like to hear about Jesus because they know they will have to take responsibility for their sins and that is something most people do not like to consider. We are sinful people and we need Jesus to cleanse us from the inside out. That thought is offensive to a lot of people so they follow a teaching that is pleasing to their ears and choose to listen to errors. They will not tolerate the truth. We read that in 2 Timothy 4:3.

We need to have a close look at the teachings of religions, and if their teachings do not line up with the Word of Truth, then we need to dismiss them as being false. How can we tell if a religion is false? If there is any religion, anywhere in the world that does not confess Jesus as the Saviour and Messiah, it is a false religion and do not listen to the teachings of that religion. We must not disregard the teachings of Jesus. If there is a religion that does not believe in Jesus, then that religion calls God a liar and to do that brings eternal judgement upon ones-self. 1 John 5:10; 'He who believes in the Son of God has the testimony within himself. He who does not believe God, has made Him out to be a liar because he has not believed the evidence that God has borne, regarding His Son'.

If you don't believe then you can't be saved. If you are not saved then you are condemned to go down to an eternity without God. You need to be born-again by the Spirit of God, forgiven for your sins, baptised and then you will be saved. Mark 16:16 states very clearly: 'He who believes and is baptised will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned'. If you are involved in a cult, God is saying through the Bible, don't believe what they say; come out of it, turn away from it and find a church that believes the truth. Find a genuine Evangelical, Pentecostal or Charismatic Christian church to attend. Give your life to Jesus and you will be saved.

Amen and God bless you.

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