

Colossians - Chapter 2
“Chasing Experiences”
Colossians 2:19

Verse 19

1. Now we come to another problem that was threatening this church - the issue of religious mysticism. This is a belief that a person can tap into the invisible spirit world and have contact with spirit-beings.
2. Obviously, there were people at Colosse that were claiming to have had contact and experiences with angels.
3. How relevant this is for today's world! You don't have to look far to see that people are enamored with this subject of mysticism and the supernatural. Angels have even become a big money business with Hollywood, capitalizing on it through television and movies.
4. Paul addresses this subject in a very straightforward manner. Believers had better take heed to Paul's instruction, lest you be deceived by Satan.
5. Paul basically gives three reasons why these false teachers had become engrossed in religious mysticism and angels.
 - A. **First reason - they had been beguiled. vs. 18**
 - B. **Second reason - they possessed a false humility.**
 - C. **Third reason - they were intruding into areas that were counterfeit.**
6. There are two responses that believers can have to Paul's teaching:
 - First, they can become vainly puffed up in their fleshly minds. vs. 18
 - People say, “I don't care what the Bible or preacher says, I know what I've seen and experienced.”
 - People can know that they are vainly puffed up when their experiences become the basis of truth. You become the center of things - what you see, and what you experience, and what you think.
 - The words “*puffed up*” carry the idea of being “inflated.” This is what experience-based religion does. It inflates your ego, but leaves you spiritually empty. Anything that doesn't root and build you up in Christ will leave you empty.
 - Second, believers can choose to hold the Head (Jesus Christ). vs. 19
 - These false teachers were holding to their religious experiences, but were not holding the Head (Christ).
 - The word “holding” carries the idea of grabbing onto something and not letting go. **Illustration:** Matthew 28:9 (They held Christ by the feet and worshipped Him. Same word is used here.)
 - Believers can trust God's Word, stand complete in Christ, and grow in His grace.
 - What a shame when people cling to everything **but** Christ.

- Remember, we are in Christ. Everything we need to be strengthened and nourished and to grow is found in Him (vs. 19). This is how true spiritual progress is made. Ephesians 4:14-16
- This is what Paul is saying in verse 19. Everything that we as members of the body of Christ need is found in Christ.
 - Through Christ we are nourished spiritually in our inner man.
 - Through Christ we are able to minister and serve.
 - Through Christ we are able to function as one body, knit together.
 - Through Christ we are able to grow spiritually (increase).
- If a people don't draw from the spiritual wellspring of Christ, they become malnourished. There is no real spiritual growth. Yet these false teachers thought they were hyperspiritual because of their experiences.
 - **Illustration:** The little dogs next door to us they think they can whip me, my Golden Retriever, or any other big dog that comes along. Reality – they're just little runts!
 - There is nothing more obnoxious or cancerous to a church than a person who thinks he is spiritually elite, and in reality, he is a spiritual runt. This kind of person is trouble!
- Don't fall for Satan's lies, and allow him to beguile and defraud you by getting you to chase after experiences. Hold the Head, cling to Christ, study God's Word, and discover all that God has made you in Christ. This is how you grow up spiritually!