

## BE STRONG

### Deceived To Be Weak

- I. **Colossians 1:13-The enemy through religious deception has tried to keep us weak; deception is when somebody doesn't want you to see the truth. If you see yourself weak, you'll talk weak, and you'll be weak**
- A. Colossians 2:8, Revelations 12:9-Satan is a deceiver and the worst thing that can happen to you, is you think what you think is right, but it's wrong
1. CEB-See to it that nobody enslaves you with philosophy and foolish deception, which conform to human traditions and the way the world thinks and acts rather than Christ
  2. NCV-Be sure that no one leads you away with false and empty teaching that is only human, which comes from the ruling spirit of the world
  3. NIRV-Their ideas depend on human teachings. They also depend on the basic things the people of this world believe. They don't depend on Christ.
- B. This is the truth that the enemy wants to deceive you out of
1. 10-You are complete (full, abundantly supplied, nothing lacking) in Him
  2. 11-You've been stripped of the whole, corrupt, carnal nature
  3. 13-You've been made alive together with him (Vitalized, invigorated by spiritual power, endowed with greater powers of life)
  4. 14-Past sins have been blotted out
  5. 15-Jesus stripped Satan and left him completely powerless
- C. Deception always looks good otherwise nobody would be deceived; if it's said from behind a pulpit in the right tone of voice many people will buy it
1. Colossians 2:8-21(MSG)-<sup>8-10</sup>Watch out for people who try to dazzle you with big words and intellectual **double-talk**. They spread their ideas through the empty traditions of human beings and the empty superstitions of spirit beings. Everything of God gets expressed in Christ, so you can see and hear him clearly. When you come to him, **that fullness comes together for you, too. His power extends over everything.** <sup>11-15</sup>Entering into this fullness is not something you figure out or achieve. No, you're already in—insiders...When you were stuck in your old sin-dead life, you were incapable of responding to God. God brought you alive—right along with Christ! **Think of it! All sins forgiven, the slate wiped clean**, that old arrest warrant canceled and nailed to Christ's cross. He stripped all the spiritual tyrants in the universe of their sham authority at the Cross and marched them naked through the streets. <sup>18-19</sup>Don't tolerate people who try to run your life, ordering you to bow and scrape...They're a lot of hot air, that's all they are. They're completely out of touch with the source of life, Christ, who puts us together in one piece, whose **very breath and blood flow**

**through us.** He is the Head and we are the body. We can grow up healthy in God only as he nourishes us. <sup>20-23</sup>So, then, if with Christ you've put all that pretentious and infantile religion behind you, why do you let yourselves be bullied by it?...**Such things sound impressive if said in a deep enough voice. They even give the illusion of being pious and humble and ascetic.**

## **II. Religion will tell you that you're delivered, but teaches you to live like you're not**

- A. You have been delivered from the power of darkness; You are no longer weak and under it's control- Colossians 2:15, Hebrews 2:14, Matthew 28:18
- B. You've been translated into the KOG and there's no weakness in this Kingdom
  - 1. Matthew 8:17-Jesus bore your weaknesses in this Kingdom
  - 2. Philippians 4:13-You're strong in this Kingdom
- C. You've been redeemed from that weak life
  - 1. Galatians 3:13, Deuteronomy 28:32-Part of the curse is no might in your hand
- D. Colossians 1:20-22-You're not some weak, feeble, imperfect, unholy being
- E. Religion always tries to get you to stay attached to the old; it never allows you to fully engage the new (Romans 8:14,17, 2 Cor 5:17,21, 1 John 4:17, Eph 4:24)
  - 1. EX: Sinner saved by grace
  - 2. To fully enjoy the new, you got to fully let go of the old

## **III. Religion never allows you to possess what God has given you as yours**

- A. You're righteous with his righteousness, You're strong with his strength, You're free with his freedom
  - 1. EX: My righteousness is filthy rags
  - 2. **WRONG:** "I'm weak, but God's my strength." – "I don't have any strength, but God's my strength."  
**RIGHT:** "I'm strong and God's my strength."
- B. Through the word of God you have to create an image on the inside of you where you see yourself strong; this is a major key to being strong