

Day 13 Colossians 2:8

We all get them. Calls on our phone or emails from people trying to scam money from us. We have to be cautious because the scammers can be quite clever.

In today's verse Colossians tells us to watch for scammers. This is one of the main reasons Paul wrote this letter.

False teaching can seep into the message of the gospel. When that happens, it affects us personally and it affects the message of the gospel.

It's not an easy thing to accept that we can be scammed. It can make us feel vulnerable. As Christians we often think we have to be nice and trust everyone. But we can see here that is not the case.

The thread that holds this book together thus far has been the thread of the foundation the gospel. The warning given here to us is to not get sidetracked from it.

Paul used an interesting language in this text. He says, "see to it that no one takes captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy."

When we are held captive we lose agility, another way to say it is that we lose our freedom.

When we are in Christ we are reconciled with God. There is no possible way to escape that love and covenant.

But we can miss out on the riches that our freedom that He provides. And if we don't stay dependent on completed work of Christ, we can miss out on the peace we are afforded in Him as well.

We live in a world that seems to thrive on division. Our culture is void of the concept of loving each other when we disagree with each other. Our culture calls us to blame, judge and take sides. It keeps us all buried in our own self-righteous corners.

We have to ask if this is a practice that we are bringing into our churches that could influence our testimony of God's mercy and grace? We as the church have the power to love and respect people well. We don't have to agree with them to do so.

Another thing we are told we can fall prey to is religious scammers. We have to keep our eyes on truth because it is easy to follow people and lose sight of the path of the gospel.

The sad truth is that here are those who use religion to gain money and power. We are told that is human thinking, not God's. We have the responsibility to keep our eyes on truth and exercise discernment.

The good news of this is that no scam can stand up against the gospel. That is why we have to daily keep ourselves in it. And in 2 Corinthians we are given a tool to keep it in front of us.

2 Corinthians 10:5

We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and WE TAKE CAPTIVE every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

Who's the captive now?!?