



SPECIAL STUDY COLOSSIANS FIVE DEPARTURES OF THE CHURCH

FIRST DEPARTURE: FROM CHRIST AS HEAD OF THE CHURCH COL. 2:4	SECOND DEPARTURE: FROM CHRIST'S FINISHED WORK OF REDEMPTION COL. 2:8	THIRD DEPARTURE: FROM LIBERTY IN CHRIST BY GRACE THRU FAITH COL. 2:16	FOURTH DEPARTURE: FROM WORSHIP OF CHRIST AS ALL IN ALL COL. 2:18	FIFTH DEPARTURE: FROM THE SIMPLICITY OF THE GOSPEL AND TRUE GODLINESS COL. 2:20
				
BEWARE OF A MAN DESIRING A HEADSHIP	BEWARE OF MAN'S REASONING & PHILOSOPHY INJECTING WORKS OF THE FLESH	BEWARE OF MAN'S JUDGEMENTS AND STANDARDS ENCOURAGING BONDAGE TO LAW	BEWARE OF WORSHIPPING ANGELS OR MEN AS GOSPEL MESSENGERS	BEWARE OF MAN'S RELIGION AS A MERE FORM OF GODLINESS

Five Departures of the Church from the Preeminence of the Person and Redemptive Work of Christ

In Colossians chapter 2, there are five departures of the Church from the “simplicity” of the gospel, once delivered by our Apostle Paul, resulting in **five sequential stages of apostasy**.

- The Ancient Serpent, through his subtlety and using the fallen nature in man, is at the “root” of the Fivefold Departure, or apostasy of the Church.
- Please note the similarity of the fivefold warnings of the Apostle Paul to the Church at Colossae, and the five “I wills” of Lucifer, who as a created angel, desired equality with the creator, becoming the origin of the “Mystery of Iniquity.” After Lucifer sinned and refused to repent, he became Satan “The Adversary.”
- The same fallen nature was acquired by Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, through the natural serpent’s bite, and was passed to all the seed line of Adam.

Five “I Wills” of Lucifer

(Isa 14:13-14) “For thou hast said in thine heart, **(1)** I will ascend into heaven, **(2)** I will exalt my throne above the stars of God, **(3)** I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north, **(4)** I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; **(5)** I will be like the most High.”

Fivefold Warning of a Fivefold Departure

1. Col 2:4 - The Divine order is holding Christ as the one and only **Head of the Church**. Men, through **enticing words**, personal endeavors and personal “charisma,” may subtly solicit believers from holding Christ as the one and only Head of the Church unto themselves.

2. Col 2:8 - The **work of redemption** was finished by the Trinity or Godhead through the Person and Work of Christ, totally apart from the works of men, becoming the “simplicity” of the gospel. Therefore, the gospel received by fallen man is by grace through faith, as the gift of God, and not of works lest any man boast. However, the “simplicity” of the gospel may be subtly replaced by giving man a part in their redemption. This requires the “wresting” of the Holy Scriptures from their original, revealed meaning and thereby substituting the “simplicity of the gospel” with **human philosophy**.

3. Col 2:16 - Believers, as justified, regenerated, and **seated in Christ in heavenly places** are warned to **“Let no man judge them”** in meat or drink. Men’s judgments subtly subvert believers, as a new creation in Christ under the New Covenant of Grace, to fall into their old creation nature and through works embrace many subtle forms of legalism rooted back into the Mosaic Law.

4. Col 2:18 - Every believer in Christ was provisionally placed upon the racecourse, through the gospel, to **win Christ as their reward and Bridegroom**. However, through the "apostasy," especially in these “last days,” many believers will succumb to worshipping of angels or mere men as gospel messengers. This becomes “voluntary humility” through a lack of understanding of the believer’s position in Christ. Hence the warning to **“let no man beguile you,”** as believers, of the ultimate reward of winning Christ as their Bridegroom by giving that place and worship to mere man.

5. Col 2:20 - Every believer in Christ, as a new creation, should heed the final warning of not succumbing to a mere outward “form of godliness” which in essence denies the power of the “simplicity” of the gospel.

Reference	Doctrines	Beware/Warnings	Results/stages downward
Col 2:4	1. The Divine order is holding Christ as the one and only Head of the Church .	Men, through enticing words , personal endeavors or personal “charisma” may subtly solicit believers from holding Christ as the one and only Head of the Church unto themselves.	Believers, who succumb to the headships and organizations of men, may become mere subjects of “a broken cistern” (Jeremiah 2:13).
Col 2:8	2. The work of redemption was accomplished by the Trinity or Godhead, through the Person and Work of Christ totally apart from the works of man. Therefore, Redemption of fallen man must be received by grace through faith, as a gift of God, and not of works lest any man boast.	The “simplicity” of the gospel is subtly replaced by allowing men a part in their redemption. This is possible through the subtle “wresting” of the Holy Scriptures from the originally revealed meaning and substituting it with human philosophy and reasonings .	Believers are moved away from the “simplicity” of the gospel, as a gift of God, when they begin to walk back in their flesh through self-righteousness and their own works, i.e., “The Way of Cain” (Jude 11).
Col 2:16	3. Believers, as justified, regenerated, and seated in Christ in heavenly places , are elevated far above the "beggarly elements" of this world, including the Mosaic Law, which was given to Israel to observe through their own righteousness of the flesh.	Let no man judge you in meat or drink. Man’s judgments subtly subvert believers, as a new creation in Christ, under the New Covenant of Grace, to revert back under the Mosaic Law into many subtle forms of legalism.	Through the subtlety of legalism, believers begin to fall from grace through faith as a new creation in Christ, into their old creation nature. They begin to lapse into the many subtle forms of legalism which are deeply rooted in the Mosaic Covenant. Leaders, subtly desiring a headship, may resign believers to legal servitude by keeping them under the many forms of legalism, which may include outward standards or rules of conduct. This servitude of believers enables leaders to solidify their rule over them. Alas! Believers become mere subjects of human headships and organization.
Col 2:18	4. Every believer in Christ was provisionally placed upon the racecourse to win Christ as their reward as Bridegroom . However, gradually	Let no man beguile you , as believers, of your reward of winning Christ by assuming a place of “voluntary humility” to angels or to men. “Voluntary humility”	The Church, in these last days, is in the process of being beguiled to receive a False Shepherd, Pastor or a Prophet in the place of Christ, as the True Shepherd and Pastor of His Church. This man will

	through the "apostasy" especially in the "last days," believers may succumb to the worshipping of angels or mere men as gospel messengers.	results from a lack of knowledge of the believer's position in Christ. In turn, these believers may also voluntarily resign Christ's place as Head of His Church and lend even their worship to a man with questionable spiritual claims.	claim and will be received as the Vicar of Christ on the earth.
Col 2:20	5. Every believer in Christ, as a new creation , should beware of succumbing to outward asceticism, i.e., touch not, taste not or handle not. This is mere "will worship," or "forced worship" of the flesh through adhering to the outward standards of religion.	The final warning in these "last days" is to beware of a subtle form of religion mixed with asceticism, i.e., self-denial. While this may appear as pious, it is mere " will worship, " producing a " form of godliness " while denying the power of regeneration through the gospel. Herein, is spiritual insight into what will be unveiled as the universal religion under Mystery Babylon in Rev 17	The religion that will be unveiled in these "last days" will be through religious leaders, making an outward "shew of humility," i.e., a piety based in "will worship," self-control and self-denial. This religion will eventually be received and will "honeycomb" the world but will, in fact, deny the power of the gospel. Religious leaders, both Roman Catholic and mainline Protestants will embrace the "brotherhood of man" and the "fatherhood of God" of all men.

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