

THE DECEPTION AND FUTILITY OF FALSE DOCTRINE

INTRODUCTION

I almost fell for the “empty envelope scam.”

In **Colossians 2:8-10**, Paul shows us a contrast between **2 spiritual conditions** in order to emphasize the sufficiency of Christ.

1. The Futility of Slavery to False Religion (8)
2. The Fullness of Salvation in Christ (9–10)

THE FUTILITY OF SLAVERY TO FALSE RELIGION (8)

A war between two rival kingdoms: Christ vs all rule and authority

The need for vigilance

The danger of captivity

The weapons of the enemy

“philosophy and empty deception”

“tradition of men...elementary principles of the world” (see 1 Tim 4:1–5)

THE FULLNESS OF SALVATION IN CHRIST (9–10)

“the fullness of Deity...bodily”

“made complete”

Consider these questions:

How married are you?

How much father/mother are you?

How much son/daughter are you?

We can grow **in** Christ, but we cannot grow **beyond** Christ (2 Pet 1:3–11)

“the head over all rule and authority” (see Col 1:16)

Colossians 2:18

Acts 7:38

CONCLUSION

Have you been in situations when you think you have lost something (keys, wallet, glasses, cellphone) that was with you all along? That can happen with our spiritual life as well. We may engage in a spiritual quest for something we are “missing,” while ignoring the fulness of our salvation in Christ.

We have all the need for our salvation, sanctification, and spiritual growth in the person and work of Christ. Don’t look elsewhere. The “keys” are in your pocket. Use them.