

Fresh Fire Ministries
The Expository Teaching Ministry of Jay Duane Driver

“Believers Must Beware”

*“Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the traditions of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.”
Colossians 2:8 (NKJV)*

Our current national environment and cultural narrative as a whole has taken on a furious debate of words cloaked in political dogma and divisive rhetoric on a level not seen before in history. While it has national implications, there are spiritual implications that are far more serious. Believers must avoid getting caught up in the war of words and accusations that would suggest that man is the cure all to end all as it relates to our fundamental existence.

**“Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”
Hebrews 12:2 (NKJV)** We cannot lose focus. We have far too much to lose. The environment is being saturated with words and phrases such as “the Alt-Right”, “fake news”, “the destruction of the administrative agenda”, “the press is the enemy of the people”, “our country is a mess and a disaster”, and then the leader of the free world, our president constantly reminds us that he is the only one that can fix it. This rhetoric is very dangerous especially for believers in general. We must beware of its influence and power and most importantly avoid it at all cost. This is bigger than any political party because of the divisive nature of our nation and the lines that been drawn in the sand regardless of political persuasion. It seems as though each day forward is met with the thought of what now, what next? We must beware. This environment is ripe for deception, conflict, and schism. We must beware.

Let’s be clear. The manifestation of this environment is not confined to one political party. No, this is an issue that is impacted by the human condition and its lust and desire for power and influence. While many will be seduced and taken captive by these philosophical arguments and debates keep in mind in order for deception to take place it requires people who desire to be deceived. Paul characterized this parallel environment during the time period of our devotional passage for him as a “great conflict.” (See Colossians 2:1) Paul was remotely familiar with how the gospel was being perverted and how men desiring to gain influence with regards to their philosophical bent were attempting to gain a foothold. This issue within the church at Colossae had grown to the degree that it even threatened the reality of the preeminence of Christ. While our current state of affairs has not quite grown to that level, what does it mean for those who have yet to believe? From that perspective, this could actually not only have national and spiritual consequences but also eternal consequences as well

The caution is not to be influenced or persuaded to any degree by “philosophy, empty deceit, traditions of men, and the basic principles of the world.” None of those things are according to Christ or His gospel which every believer must confess to be saved. We cannot be hindered. We cannot allow the current environment that is being inundated daily with a plethora of sound bites and talking points to change the context of our faith. The only man who can “fix” the ills of a fallen world is the man Christ Jesus our Lord. Any and all else must be vetted, discerned, and appropriately judged as to its consistency with what we know and believe. We cannot take this for granted. It is far more dangerous than any of us know at this time. Keep running the race with confidence and endurance. Make up in your mind right here and now that you will not be hindered nor will you buy into the insatiable hype that we hear everyday. We should know the difference to the point that we will not be deceived. Believers must beware! **“You ran well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? This persuasion does not come from Him who calls you.”
Galatians 5:7-8 (NKJV)**