

“HOLD ON TO YOUR HEAD”

COLOSSIANS 2:18-19

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INTRODUCTION

Today the Holy Spirit tells us through the apostle Paul: “Hold on to your **Head**, and don’t let your head be puffed up!”

Pride is characteristic of false teachers, and often of their followers, who **hold on to** false idea and practices that they are not supposed to, and don’t hold on to the One person they must!

- 1) They put down/and rule out those who hold to the Savior and His truth.
- 2) They delight in false humility and self-abasement.
- 3) They honor other beings and persons over the Savior.
- 4) They exalt false revelations/visions/personal experiences over the Word of God.

Such persons have no real cause to be proud and “puffed up”—but they are due to their “fleshly mind.” Paul tells us in Romans that the mind of the flesh is death.

- These teachers and their followers are in deep trouble—for only Jesus Christ, the Head of His church—His Body—can cause the church and the believer to **grow**.
- And only as the body is supported and held together by ligaments and tendons can this growth take place.

YOU MUST LET GO OF YOUR PRIDE AND SELF-EFFORTS AND HOLD ON TO YOUR HEAD—JESUS CHRIST.

- I. DON’T BE JUDGED/CONDEMNED OR RULED OUT BY AN UMPIRE TO LOSE YOUR PRIZE (18a)
 - False judges who rule by self-values are everywhere.
 - Jesus is the only Judge who matters.
 - His divine Word—special revelation—is our sure guide, not the supposed insights of human teachers not submitted to divine authority.

- II. AVOID FALSE HUMILITY EVIDENCED BY SELF-ABASEMENT, WRONG WORSHIP, AND WRONG VISIONS. (18b)
 - A. Have no delight in self-abasement—the word simply means “humility” and is usually commendable, but here the context shows it to be perverted.
 - Cf. Lent practices, self-afflictions, carrying crosses, required fasting,
 - B. Keeping special festivals and Sabbath days Refuse to give homage to any significant person or even Angel—don’t worship anyone but God!
 - Cf. Mormons—Moroni, Joseph Smith, Brigham Young, etc.
 - Cf. Seventh Day Adventists—Ellen White
 - Cf. Christian Science—Mary Baker Eddy.
 - Cf. Herbert W. Armstrong and the Worldwide Church of God—he had all the answers, don’t need to go to any church. Send your money to him.
 - Cf. Benny Hinn, Paul and Jan Crouch and many others like them.
 - Cf. Joel Osteen and his basketball stadium church in Houston.

- Cf. followers of Peter Ruckman and Jack Hyles—blindly following them regardless—Man worship, men full of pride.
 - We could give many more examples.
- C. Beware of one who exalts his personal visions or special religious experiences that lead him away from Christ and the authority of the Word of God.
1. The verb here likely has the idea “to enter into questions and examine them thoroughly from all sides what he has seen”—i.e. professed visions.
 2. Likely not to be understood of entering into either the mystery religion shrines or into heaven here—although that may be the kind of thing behind the claims of these teachers.
 3. Many have followed in their path.
 4. We are to primarily think of the kind involved in cult movements; but be warned of others also:
 - Paul Cain and his prophetic prowess.
 - Jack Deere—former Dallas Seminary professor, now Vineyard promoter of Paul Cain and others.
 - Wayne Grudem—erroneous teaching on prophecy encouraging the false practice.
 - Can God give the believer spiritual insights? Absolutely! Does He at times uncover some amazing things and make us aware of them? Absolutely. But, no one today has the gift of prophecy in the sense that NT prophets existed.
 - There are many spiritual deceivers out there; don’t become confused.
- D. Don’t become “puffed up” like a balloon in your mind.
1. There is no just cause to be so puffed up.
 2. The mind so puffed up is “fleshly”—carnal, worldly.
 3. The humility mentioned earlier in the verse is a “cover-up” for such arrogance and pride.

III. DON’T LET GO OF YOUR HEAD—Hold on tightly! (19).

- A. The Church is His body (cf. 1:18, 24; Eph. 1:22-23)
- B. All Growth is from the Head and from God.

CONCLUSION

Don’t be judged wrongly or ruled out by a bad umpire/judge.

Avoid false humility evidenced by self-abasement, wrong worship, and wrong visions.

Don’t let go of your Head—the Lord Jesus Christ.

God has led me through an amazing spiritual journey; he will do the same for you.

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