## BEWARE OF CONTEMPORARY THOUGHT IN THE CHURCH COLOSSIANS 2:8

By: Dr. Gary G. Dull

<u>INTRO</u>: We are facing a problem in the Body of Christ today such as never before. The problem is <u>CONTEMPORARY THOUGHT</u>. Many churches have become weakened in their ministry due to the development of <u>CONTEMPORARY THOUGHT</u> which is not according to biblical teaching, and it is about time that we take note of this movement and face it from the perspective of the Word of God.

### I. THE INSTRUCTION – COLOSSIANS 2:8

- A. The Warning "Beware lest 'any' man spoil you."
  - 1. A False Teacher
  - 2. A Misled Christian
  - 3. A Compromising Pastor
  - 4. An Immature Believer

# SATAN WOULD DESIRE FOR EVERY CHRISTIAN TO BE SPOILED, AND WILL GO TO ANY END TO SEE SUCH ACCOMPLISHED.

- B. The Wrong "Through philosophy and vain deceit."
  - 1. Philosophy Means "The Love of Wisdom." (Worldly wisdom)
  - 2. Vain Deceit The tricks that lead to compromise.
- C. The Wayward "After the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ."
  - 1. The Tradition of Men Humanistic thought.
  - 2. Rudiments of the World Godless means and dynamics.
  - 3. Not after Christ The grace and truth of the Gospel.

### ILLUSTRATION:

#### II. THE ISSUE - "CONTEMPORARY THOUGHT"

- A. The Meaning of the Word "Contemporary."
  - 1. "That which happens at the present time."
  - 2. "A person living in the same age as others."
  - 3. "The style of the present time."

NOTE: The third definition is the one of concern to the church today.

B. The Meaning of the phrase "Contemporary Thought."

# CONTEMPORARY THOUGHT IS "THINKING THAT REFLECTS OR ADVANCES THE STYLE OF THE PRESENT TIME OF THE WORLD."

- C. The Measure of Contemporary Thought. "IT IS EVERYWHERE!"
  - 1. In Society Almost anything goes.
  - 2. In Government Avoid the Constitution.
  - 3. In Education There are no absolutes.

4. In the Church – Mimicking the World

<u>A CRITICAL OBSERVATION:</u> A Church or Christian that follows "CONTEMPORARY THOUGHT" HAS CHOSEN TO REFLECT OR ADVANCE THE WAYS OF THE WORLD! That has NEVER been the divine mission of Christianity!

<u>A CALL TO REALITY:</u> The Church of Jesus Christ is never to MIMICK OR PROMOTE the world in any way, because of what the world is made up of (The lust of the flesh, The lust of the eyes, and the Pride of Life – 1 John 2:15). Rather, the Church of Jesus Christ is to DETER THE ADVANCEMENT of world through the practice of righteousness.

- 1) The Church is the Pillar and Ground of the Truth 1 Timothy 3:16
- 2) The Church is a Peculiar People 1 Peter 2:9
- 3) The Church is a Restrainer of Sin 2 Thessalonians 2:7,8 ILUSTRATION:

#### III. THE INTRUSION – WORLDLINESS IN THE CHURCH

The intrusion of worldliness in the church is evidenced by the following:

- A. Bible Translations
- B. Dress
- C. Music
- D. Life-style
- E. Standards
- F. Attitudes
- G. Commitment

**ILLUSTRATION:** 

APPLICATION: 2 CORINTHIANS 6:17

"WHEREFORE, COME OUT FROM AMONG THEM AND BE SEPARATE, SAITH THE LORD, AND TOUCH NOT THE UNCLEAN THING; AND I WILL RECEIVE YOU..."