

**COLOSSIANS: A Study by Bill Jones**  
**“The Foundation of our Faith: Standing Firm”**  
(Colossians 1:24-2:23)

**In chapter 2 Paul addresses four false teachings that were creeping into the Colossians church:**

**Four infiltrating doctrines:**

- 1. Philosophy**
- 2. Legalism or ritualism**
- 3. Mysticism**
- 4. Asceticism**

**Paul is showing them something better than the false teachings.  
He is sharing Godly truth with them.**

**I. Paul’s Proclamation of the Gospel—A labor of love**

**A. His commitment/perseverance: Joy in suffering for the Church  
as did Christ**

(Colossians 1:24, 2:1)

**B. His message/proclamation: Riches of the mystery of God  
which is Christ in us.**

(Colossians 1:25-27, 2:2-3)

That we may know the wisdom and knowledge found in Christ by  
being:

1. Encouraged in heart
2. United in love
3. Full of the riches of complete understanding of the mystery of  
Christ in us.

**C. His goal/purpose: Perfection through Christ  
if we accept the Gospel**

(Colossians 1:28, 2:9-12)

1. To admonish (warn, reprove, convincing of error)
2. To teach (instruct in faith, believe and repent)
3. To apply (make practical, present everyone perfect in Christ)

**D. His source/power: Strength from Christ  
imparted by the Holy Spirit**

(Colossians 1:29, 2:12)

## **II. Paul's Living out the Gospel—An example to emulate**

(Colossians 2:1-3)

**A. Real faith (Paul took Epaphras' concern upon himself)**

**B. Real concern for the saints (to be complete in Christ)**

**C. Real surrender to Christ (no matter the cost or suffering)**

## **III. Paul's Defending the Gospel Truth against false teachings**

(Colossians 2:4-23)

**A. Philosophy—Don't be deceived by hollow, good sounding arguments (v8)**

(Colossians 2:4-10)

**B. Legalism or Ritualism—Was nailed to the cross (v14)**

**You have a new life in Christ, don't work for men's approval, following rules, worrying about what others think.**

**Reality is found in Christ (v17).**

(Colossians 2:11-17)

**C. Mysticism—Man claimed visions that should worship angels because not good enough to worship God (v18)**

**Paul calls this false humility or presumptuous pride which refuses God's only appointed way through Jesus Christ.**

(Colossians 2:18-19)

**D. Asceticism—Harsh treatment of the body and rules (v20-21)**

**Rules don't work and don't make men better and give no victory over our sinful nature.**

**Only victory is through Christ. We need His strength and power, faith that works**

(Colossians 2:20-23)

**E. Some philosophies that are infiltrating our world today**

1. Hedonism--Seeking pleasure

2. Worldliness--Fitting in

3. Me-ism—Looking out for number 1

4. Self-negativism—Beating yourself up