



— *Psalm 1* women

in a *Psalm 2* world —

So That No One May Delude You:
Discipleship and Discernment in a
Digital Age

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Colossians 2:1-10a

I. We must be aware that social media and technology *are* shaping us.

See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ. (Colossians 2:8)

A. Social media and technology intend to influence us.

➤ It is designed this way!

B. Why are we so easily influenced by it?

1. We tend to assume that it's true and it works.
2. It has become the "norm."
3. It is our nature to become like who and what we spend time with.
4. As finite human beings, we are looking for wisdom.

II. We must acknowledge that we are easily deceived.

I say this so that no one will delude you with persuasive argument.
(Colossians 2:4)

A. We are deceived because of the easy cover that social media provides.

B. We are deceived because of the nature of our own hearts.

➤ Jeremiah 17:9: *The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it?*

➤ Warnings bookend the passage:

▪ Verse 4: *I say this so that no one will delude you with persuasive argument...*

▪ Verse 8: *See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception...*

III. We must be rooted in God's source of wisdom— Christ Himself.

...attaining to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, resulting in a true knowledge of God's mystery, that is Christ Himself, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.
(Colossians 2:2-3)

- A. In Christ alone are hidden all wisdom and knowledge.
- B. We find that wisdom in His Word.
- C. Being rooted in the wisdom of Christ through His Word has a practical purpose:
 - 1. Protection from being deceived (v. 4, 8)
 - 2. True knowledge and understanding (v. 3, 4)
 - 3. Made stable, established (v. 5, 6)
 - 4. Good discipline (v. 5)
 - 5. Made complete with all the fullness of Christ (transformation!) (v. 9; 2 Cor. 3:18)

Human Tendencies	God's Wisdom
Assume its true and easily deceived	<p>God's words are the only source of truth and wisdom.</p> <p><i>"God's word must regularly interrupt and re-direct our thinking."</i> (Kara Dedert)</p>
Become the "norm."	<p>Stability in Christ means that we aren't "tossed here and there by every wind of doctrine." (Eph. 4:14)</p>
We become what we look at.	<p>When we "[behold] as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit." (2 Cor. 3:18)</p>
Finite minds need wisdom	<p>"In [Christ] are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." (Col. 2:3)</p> <p><i>The Holy Scriptures are...the only rule of my faith and obedience, the only rule to direct me how I may glorify God and enjoy Him forever.</i> (Catechism 5)</p> <p><i>"Christians experience spiritual fullness because they are in Christ, in whom all the fullness of the Deity lives. All that human beings can know or experience of God is found in Christ, and so Christians, simply by virtue of being Christians, have access to all this knowledge and all these experiences. We need look nowhere else."</i> (Douglas Moo)</p>

"By contemplating the glory of God in the gospel, we become insensibly, but certainly conformed to the same image, and made like the Redeemer. His image will be reflected on us. We shall imbibe his sentiments, catch his feelings, and be molded into the image of his own purity." (Albert Barnes)

IV. We must believe in God's means of discipleship—the Body of Christ

Ephesians 4:11-15

¹¹ And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. ¹⁴ As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; ¹⁵ but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ.

A. The Body of Christ is God's primary means of discipleship for His people.

- God gave His undershepherds to the Church for the purpose of “equipping the saints,” for the growth of the Body of Christ.
 - To be able to serve
 - To be built up as into our Head, Jesus Christ
 - To have unity of faith
 - To grow in the knowledge of Jesus Christ
 - To be mature disciples filled with the knowledge and fullness of Christ

B. This discipleship results in maturity and stability that protects from deception.

- We are no longer immature, foolish children that are tossed here and there by every wind of doctrine, trickery and deceit. (verse 14)

Conclusion

Absalom's Rebellion: 2 Samuel 15:2-6

²Absalom used to rise early and stand beside the way to the gate; and when any man had a suit to come to the king for judgment, Absalom would call to him and say, "From what city are you?" And he would say, "Your servant is from one of the tribes of Israel." ³Then Absalom would say to him, "See, your claims are good and right, but no man listens to you on the part of the king." ⁴Moreover, Absalom would say, "Oh that one would appoint me judge in the land, then every man who has any suit or cause could come to me and I would give him justice." ⁵And when a man came near to prostrate himself before him, he would put out his hand and take hold of him and kiss him. ⁶In this manner Absalom dealt with all Israel who came to the king for judgment; so Absalom stole away the hearts of the men of Israel.

David's Response: Psalm 3:2-4, 8

²Many are saying of my soul, "There is no deliverance for him in God."
³But You, O Lord, are a shield about me, my glory, and the One who lifts my head. ⁴I was crying to the Lord with my voice, and He answered me from His holy mountain...⁸Salvation belongs to the Lord!

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