

DISCUSSION GUIDE

SO THAT NO ONE WILL DECEIVE YOU
Colossians — Week 16

ICEBREAKER: What's your best scar story?

OVERVIEW: Paul's deepest concern in writing the book of Colossians was that they would be deceived by false teaching and led away from Christ. This is the primary reason Paul wrote the letter. The danger of false teaching is just as real today. Christians are constantly attacked with false teachings – on TV, on the radio, on YouTube, on Facebook and social media, on the news, at school, etc. In this study we will go deeper with Paul's five weapons against deception.

1. **Read Colossians 2:4-8.** What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. The first weapon against deception is to be "rooted (v. 7)," growing deeper in comprehension of sound, Biblical doctrine. How does a shallow understanding of sound theology make a Christian vulnerable to deception?
3. Do you have a deep, clear understanding of orthodox Christian doctrine? Explain. How can a Christian grow in this way?
4. The second weapon against deception is to be "built up in him (v. 7)," growing more and more like Christ. How can loving God and others more and more help you guard against deception?

5. The third weapon against deception is to be "established in the faith (v. 7)," growing stronger in conviction. This is not only a knowledge of sound doctrine, but a strong, unshakeable faith in sound doctrine. Are you established in the faith? Explain. How can a Christian grow stronger in conviction?
6. The fourth weapon against deception is "overflowing with gratitude (v. 7)" – growing louder in celebration. How do the acts of praise and thanksgiving help us against deception?
7. Are you overflowing with gratitude? Explain.
8. The fifth weapon against deception is to "be careful that no one takes you captive through philosophy (v. 8)," growing wiser in caution. How can a Christian be more careful and cautious about false teachings?
9. What are some of the most dangerous and popular false teachings circulating in our society today?
10. Young people are especially vulnerable to false teaching. What can we do to help our youth guard against deception?

The Last Word: Any knowledge that distracts or subtracts from the supremacy and centrality of Christ must be rejected.