

**“Whose Side for 2018?”**  
**Colossians 2:6-8**

**I. Summary of Col. 2:6-8**

- A. The Colossians, who have already *received* Christ, are to *remain* in Him. (vs. 6-7)
- B. They are not to let themselves be enslaved by a deceptive and demonic false teaching. (v. 8)
  - 1. “Elemental spirits of the world” = fallen spiritual beings.
  - 2. They are the beings mentioned in Col 1:16; 2:10, 15.
- C. In other words: Choose a side...Christ or the powers of darkness!

**II. Wider Implications of Col 2:6-8**

- A. Fallen spiritual beings, the “sons of god”, were, as a result of sin, given a measure of influence in this world. (Also Job 1:6; 2:1, Gen. 6, etc.)

*Deuteronomy 32:8–9 - (ESV) <sup>8</sup> When the Most High gave to the nations their inheritance, when he divided mankind, he fixed the borders of the peoples according to the number of the sons of God. <sup>9</sup> But the Lord’s portion is his people, Jacob his allotted heritage.*

- B. These beings oppose the Lord by stifling truth and by deceiving through false religion.

*Daniel 10:12–13 - <sup>12</sup> Then he said to me, “Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words. <sup>13</sup> The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia...*

*1 Corinthians 10:19–20 - <sup>19</sup> What do I imply then? That food offered to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? <sup>20</sup> No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons.*

- C. All unbelievers are trapped under their influence.

*Ephesians 2:1–2 - <sup>1</sup> And you were dead in the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup> in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—*

- D. Even believers are exhorted to remember their constant aggression.

*Ephesians 6:12 - For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.*

- E. Christ's victory has dethroned these beings and limited their power, but they still actively oppose God and His people.
- F. The ongoing war between the Lord and the powers of darkness colors *all* of life.

### **III. Whose side will you be on every moment of 2018?**

- A. Christ's? Or the forces of evil?
- B. Despite our tragic waywardness, the Lord will remain on our side.

*2 Timothy 2:13 - if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.*

- C. Our gracious Lord will ensure we ultimately remain loyal to Him.

*John 10:27–28 - <sup>27</sup> My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup> I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.*