

Paul tells us in Colossians 2:8, 'See to it that no one makes a prey of you by philosophy and empty deceit, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ.' Many of the divisions that exist in the world of Christianity today are a consequence of man's 'philosophy'. Man tends to see the truth that God revealed to us in the Bible as incomplete, as though it were land that had a lot of deep holes and ditches running all through it. Man then has a compelling need to fill in the gaps in this picture; to build an elaborate superstructure over them so that the landscape suits him. This he does by coming up with theories to patch all of the holes in his understanding. These become so elaborate that they tend to overshadow the true ground. Theories are not necessarily bad until they become dogma. I know of one religious group that always answered my questions with, 'Well, we have a theory about that'. But the true church should deal only with the facts. It is no sin to lack total understanding about the truth. It is a sin to attempt to force other people to hold your opinions about everything. God made it very clear that we are not to add to or subtract from His word. It is one thing to say that we 'speak where the Bible speaks and are silent where the Bible is silent', but quite another to actually do it. We must simply tell it like it is.