

En Garde

Colossians 2:4,6-10

Shadrach Means

Media Reference Number – GSX757

Wednesday June 14th, 2023

En Garde – on guard; a call to a fencer to adopt a defensive stance in readiness for an attack or bout.

1 Peter 5:8-9 “⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. ⁹ Resist him, steadfast in the faith.”

En Garde against Deception

Colossians 2:4,8 “⁴ Now this I say lest anyone should deceive you with persuasive words... ⁸ Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.”

- *The warning.*
- **The Enemy wants to take Christians hostage through deception.**
 - *Don't be deceived by persuasive words!*
 - The wrong pursuit will lead you astray and take you captive.
 - *Deceived* – to deceive by false reasoning.
 - *Persuasive* – false speech resulting from the use of well-constructed, probable arguments, fine sounding speech.
 - You can be led astray when people take biblical topics out of context and make a doctrine around them.
 - Or well-crafted arguments, which seem probable, but are against the truth.
 - A well-crafted lie always includes a good amount of truth, and then twists it in an ever so subtle way.
- ***En Garde! Beware!*** – Watch out for, to notice carefully.
 - ***Pay attention to what you hear!***
 - ***Pay attention to what you read!***
 - ***Pay attention to what you see!***
- Remember that deceivers will use human reasoning and wisdom to try and take you captive!

- **1 Corinthians 1:18-21** ¹⁸ For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written: *“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.”* ²⁰ Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.”
- **What will they use?** Philosophy and empty deceit
 - *“Peake says the best sense of the phrase cheat you is actually, “lead you away as prey.” It also had the ideas of robbing and plundering. “Their goods were the salvation they had received from Christ; and both the Gentile and Jewish teachers endeavored to deprive them of these, by perverting their minds, and leading them off from the truths of Christianity.” (Clarke)*
 - **Bible Definition of “Philosophy”** – human understanding or wisdom and, by implication, in contrast with divinely revealed knowledge—‘human understanding, human wisdom, philosophy.’
 - **WWW Definition of “Philosophy”** - The noun philosophy means the study of proper behavior, and the search for wisdom. The original meaning of the word *philosophy* comes from the Greek roots *philo-* meaning "love" and *-sophos*, or "wisdom." When someone studies *philosophy* they want to understand how and why people do certain things and how to live a good life. In other words, they want to know the meaning of life. Add the suffix *-er* to *philosophy*, and you get a word for someone whose job it is to think these big thoughts.
 - By Definition then, a philosopher is a man/woman that would use human wisdom to counteract widely revealed truths about God.
- **IN THE MIDST OF DECEPTION.**
 - **BE EN GARDE!**
 - What kind of deception are we witnessing?
- **UFO’s**
 - Las Vegas residents say they exist.
 - Nearly half of Americans say, *“People somewhat like ourselves live on other planets.”*

- Gallup Pole
 - “While Americans are still inclined to think UFOs are not alien spacecraft, close to half believe alien life forms exist beyond Earth. A June 2019 poll found 49% of Americans believing there are “people somewhat like ourselves” living on other planets. A much larger percentage, 75%, said that “life of some form” exists elsewhere in the universe.” <https://news.gallup.com/poll/350096/americans-believe-ufos.aspx>
- Did God make life outside our solar system?
 - He did not!
- The Bible says.
 - **Genesis 1:14-19** “¹⁴ Then God said, “Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; ¹⁵ and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth”; and it was so. ¹⁶ Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also. ¹⁷ God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, ¹⁸ and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ So the evening and the morning were the fourth day.”
 - Every other sphere that God made life, He states it.
 - **Genesis 1:20** “Then God said, “Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens.”
 - **Genesis 1:24-25** “²⁴ Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, *each* according to its kind”; and it was so. ²⁵ And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. And God saw that *it was* good.”
 - The Heavens are there to simply declare God’s glory and righteousness.
 - **Psalm 19:1-3** “¹ The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork. ² Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge. ³ *There is* no speech nor language *where* their voice is not heard.”
 - **Psalm 97:6** “The heavens declare His righteousness, and all the peoples see His glory.”

- **BIOLOGY**

- Web MD says. (The Lie)

- Sex is generally determined at birth according to the baby's chromosomes, gonads, and anatomy. These three features are used to determine biological sex.
 - Gender is a multi-faceted social system. Gender is largely based on society and culture. There are some consistencies, but it can be concluded that gender is not predetermined based on sex.

- The Bible says. (The Truth)

- **Genesis 1:27** "So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."
 - *For a Christian to deface the image of man created in His image, he must deface the very image of God!*
 - **Genesis 2:24** "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh."
 - God views the marriage of Adam and Eve as the pattern for all mankind.
 - That's why mankind has celebrated marriage between a man and woman since the very first marriage.
 - It's also the reason why same-sex marriage destroys individuals, family, and society.
 - **Matthew 19:3-6** "³ The Pharisees also came to Him, testing Him, and saying to Him, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?" ⁴ And He answered and said to them, "**Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,'** ⁵ and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'?" ⁶ So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."
 - This is the pattern for marriage and sexual relations.
 - 1 Man (XY) + 1 Woman (XX) for life.

"The Word of God also does not separate gender from sex. Genesis 1:27 refers to the creation of male and female (sex), and in Genesis 2 we read of the creation of man and woman (gender) in more detail. Specific male and female pronouns (e.g., she/her, he/his) are used to link male with man and female with woman throughout the Genesis account of creation. Sex is directly connected to gender. Moreover, after God finished his creation, he declared it "very good" (Genesis 1:31). So, God's good design is for only two genders/sexes, and this design is confirmed by our biology."
<https://answersingenesis.org/family/gender/biology-gender/>

- **En Garde against deceivers!**

- i. **Unrepentant mankind taken captive by the enemy.**

- a. This could be a teacher, professor, supervisor, co-worker, boss, or even someone claiming to be a pastor or Bible teacher that is twisting the truth.
- **2 Corinthians 11:13-15** “...such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. ¹⁴ And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. ¹⁵ Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.”
 - **2 Timothy 2:26** “...*that* they may come to their senses *and* escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to *do* his will.”
 - **Philippians 3:18-19** “¹⁸ For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* the enemies of the cross of Christ: ¹⁹ whose end *is* destruction, whose god *is* their belly, and whose glory *is* in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things.”
 - **2 Peter 2:1-3** “But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, *and* bring on themselves swift destruction. ² And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. ³ By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.”
 - **2 Peter 3:15-16** “Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, ¹⁶ as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable *people* twist to their own destruction, as *they do* also the rest of the Scriptures.”

ii. ***En Garde against the real enemy!***

a. **Satan, demons, fallen angels**

- **2 Corinthians 10:3-5** “³ For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. ⁴ For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, ⁵ casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.”
- **Ephesians 6:11-12** “¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles (Schemes) of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.”

a. *Scheme* – a secret plot with intent to deceive

iii. En Garde against the goal of the enemy!

1. To keep people away from God through deception.

b. **Romans 1:18-23** ¹⁸For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ¹⁹because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them. ²⁰For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, ²¹because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²²Professing to be wise, they became fools, ²³and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.”

- *Empty Deceit* – without content, trickery, misleading, or a flat out lie.
- *Tradition of Men* – ideas that they pointed to as being believed by a long line of men before them.
 - They will actually point to a long line of men before them that hold to the same lie as an establishment of their supposed truth.
- *Basic Principles of the World* – principles that underlie the nature of something.
 - Don't allow these worldly philosophies, these man made doctrines rob you of fully enjoying a relationship with Christ!

En Garde in the Faith

Colossians 2:6-7,9-10 ⁶As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, ⁷rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving... ⁹For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; ¹⁰and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.”

- In the midst of attack...
 - *Remain steadfast in Christ!*
 - *Steadfastness* – “a support, foundation,” denotes “strength, steadfastness,”
 - **1 Corinthians 15:58** “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord.”

- **Colossians 1:21-23** ²¹ And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled ²² in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight— ²³ if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel.”
- *We are rooted and built up in HIM!*
 - *Rooted* – speaks of sustainment, nourishment. (It’s past tense.)
 - *Built Up* – speaks of the solidarity (It’s present-tense)
 - **Ephesians 3:17** “...that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love.”
 - *Established* – Cause to believe, verify, increase in inner strength.
 - **Luke 6:47-48** ⁴⁷ *Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: ⁴⁸ He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock.*”
 - **1 Corinthians 3:11** “For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”
- *Walk in Him (Christ)*
 - The pursuit of the right thing will keep you centered and steadfast.
 - As you received Christ, so walk in Him!
 - *Established* – increase in inner strength, with the implication of greater firmness of character or attitude.
 - *In the Faith* –
 - **Romans 10:17** “...faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”
 - **1 Corinthians 2:5** “... your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.”
 - **1 Corinthians 16:13-14** “Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. ¹⁴ Let all *that* you *do* be done with love.”
 - **2 Corinthians 1:24** “...for by faith you stand.”
 - **1 Timothy 6:11-12** ¹¹ “But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life.”
 - **2 Timothy 2:22** “Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”
- *So then, what is faith?*
 - **Hebrews 11:1-3** “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. ² For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. ³ By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the

word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.”

- *Evidence* – confidence
 - “*Faith is to believe what we do not see, and the reward of faith is to see what we believe .*” Augustine.

- *Let’s take a test!*

- **2 Corinthians 13:5** “Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?”

- *Examine* – Put yourself on trial.

- 1. Do you have works that prove your faith?**

- a. Do you live what you claim to believe? Are you a Christian because you have received Christ into your life?
 - i. What if we remove, church attendance, serving in ministry, and Christian clothing.
 1. What evidence is there you are a believer?
 2. When no one is around...
 - a. *What do you watch?*
 - b. *What do you listen to?*
 - c. *How do you talk?*
 - i. To your wife/husband, children, parents.
 - d. *What do you DO?*
- b. **James 2:15** “...faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.”
- c. **James 2:18-20** “¹⁸ But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. ¹⁹ You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! ²⁰ But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead.”
- d. **John 15:5-6** “⁵ “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw *them* into the fire, and they are burned.”

2. Do you love?

a. God first, then others

- i. **Mark 12:29-31** “The first of all the commandments is: ‘Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one.’³⁰ And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment.³¹ And the second, like it, is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”
- ii. **Galatians 5:22** “But the fruit of the Spirit is love.”
- iii. **1 Corinthians 13:13** “And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”
- iv. **1 John 4:12-16** “¹² No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us. ¹³ By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world. ¹⁵ Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶ And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.”

“Faith and works should travel side by side, step answering to step, like the legs of men walking. First faith, and then works; and then faith again, and then works again -- until they can scarcely distinguish which is the one and which is the other.”

William Booth

“The Bible recognizes no faith that does not lead to obedience, nor does it recognize any obedience that does not spring from faith. The two are opposite sides of the same coin.”

A.W. Tozer.