

# 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> CORINTHIANS

## INTRODUCTION PART IV

{Sunday, June 19, 2016 A.D.}

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➤ **God's wisdom for His Church**, which **lived(es) amidst** a **prosperous, arrogant** and **aggressively rebellious culture**, yet is commanded by God to **become** and **remain holy** (moral and separate).

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✓ **For Reflection:** *Romans 12:1-3 (NASB95) & Philippians 4:8 (NASB95)*  
*Deuteronomy 8:11-20 (NASB95)*

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### • World Morality at Corinth

- **Morally Bankrupt Culture {Typical or Unique?}**
  - Sexual Perversions (All Kinds)
  - Drunkenness
  - Gambling Addictions
  - Gluttony
  - Selfishness/Greed
  - Injustice/Corruption/Deception (at All Levels)
  - Brutality/Abuse
  - Divorce/Abandonment
  - Slavery
  - Superstition/Mystery Religions
  - Religious Temple Prostitution (Venus/Aphrodite)
  - Religious Temple Healing Worship (Asclepius)
  - Religious Polytheism/Plurality
  
- **Autonomous Human Reasoning** (Philosophy Not under/submitted to God) (No Ultimate Authority/Justice) (Strongly Influenced by Athenian Philosophy/"The Spirit of the Age-Time")
  - Anthropocentric (Man-centered) (Self-centered)
  - Instant Gratification/Pleasure Driven-Ruled by the Flesh
  - Overwhelmed/Confused by an Absence of Absolute Truth, Reality, Purpose and Meaning (Significance) to which We Were Designed and Created by God
    - Anti-revelation – no knowledge apart from the sinful human nature
    - Anti-supernatural (miracle and resurrection)
    - No salvation from sin/guilt/shame/death/personal punishment under God's wrath
  
- **Strong Hellenizing Influence upon the People of the Empire** (Influence toward the Adoption of Greek Ideas/Values)

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### **John 1:9-13 (NASB95)**

<sup>9</sup> There was **the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man.** <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and **the world did not know Him.** <sup>11</sup> He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. <sup>12</sup> But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name, <sup>13</sup> **who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.**

### **Colossians 2:8-15 (NASB95)**

<sup>8</sup> 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.** <sup>9</sup> For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, <sup>10</sup> and in Him you have been made complete, and **He is the head over all rule and authority;** <sup>11</sup> and **in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ;** <sup>12</sup> having been **buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God,** who raised Him from the dead. <sup>13</sup> **When you were dead in your transgressions** and the uncircumcision of your flesh, **He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions,** <sup>14</sup> **having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.** <sup>15</sup> When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.

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### Looking Ahead:

- Church at Corinth