

COLOSSIANS

~ COMPLETE IN CHRIST ~



Screwing Your Head on Tight



Colossians 2:1-23

For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you, for those in Laodicea, and for all who have not seen me in person. I want their hearts to be encouraged and joined together in love, so that they may have all the riches of assured understanding, and have the knowledge of God's mystery—Christ. In Him all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are

hidden. I am saying this so that no one will deceive you with persuasive arguments. For I may be absent in body, but I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the strength of your faith in Christ. Therefore as you have received ϵ Christ Jesus the Lord, walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, just as you were

taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

Be careful that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit based on human tradition, based on the elemental forces of the world, and not based on Christ.

For in Him the entire fullness of God's nature dwells bodily, and you have been filled by Him, who is the head over every ruler and authority.

In Him you were also circumcised with a
circumcision not done with hands, by putting
off the body of flesh, in the circumcision of the
Messiah. Having been buried with Him in
baptism, you were also raised with Him
through faith in the working of God, who
raised Him from the dead. And when you were
dead in trespasses and in the uncircumcision

of your flesh, He made you alive with Him and forgave us all our trespasses. He erased the certificate of debt, with its obligations, that was against us and opposed to us, and has taken it out of the way by nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and disgraced them publicly; He triumphed over them by Him.

Therefore don't let anyone judge you in regard to food and drink or in the matter of a festival or a new moon or a sabbath day. These are a shadow of what was to come; the substance is the Messiah. Let no one disqualify you, insisting on ascetic practices and the worship of angels, claiming access to a visionary realm and inflated without cause by his fleshly mind.

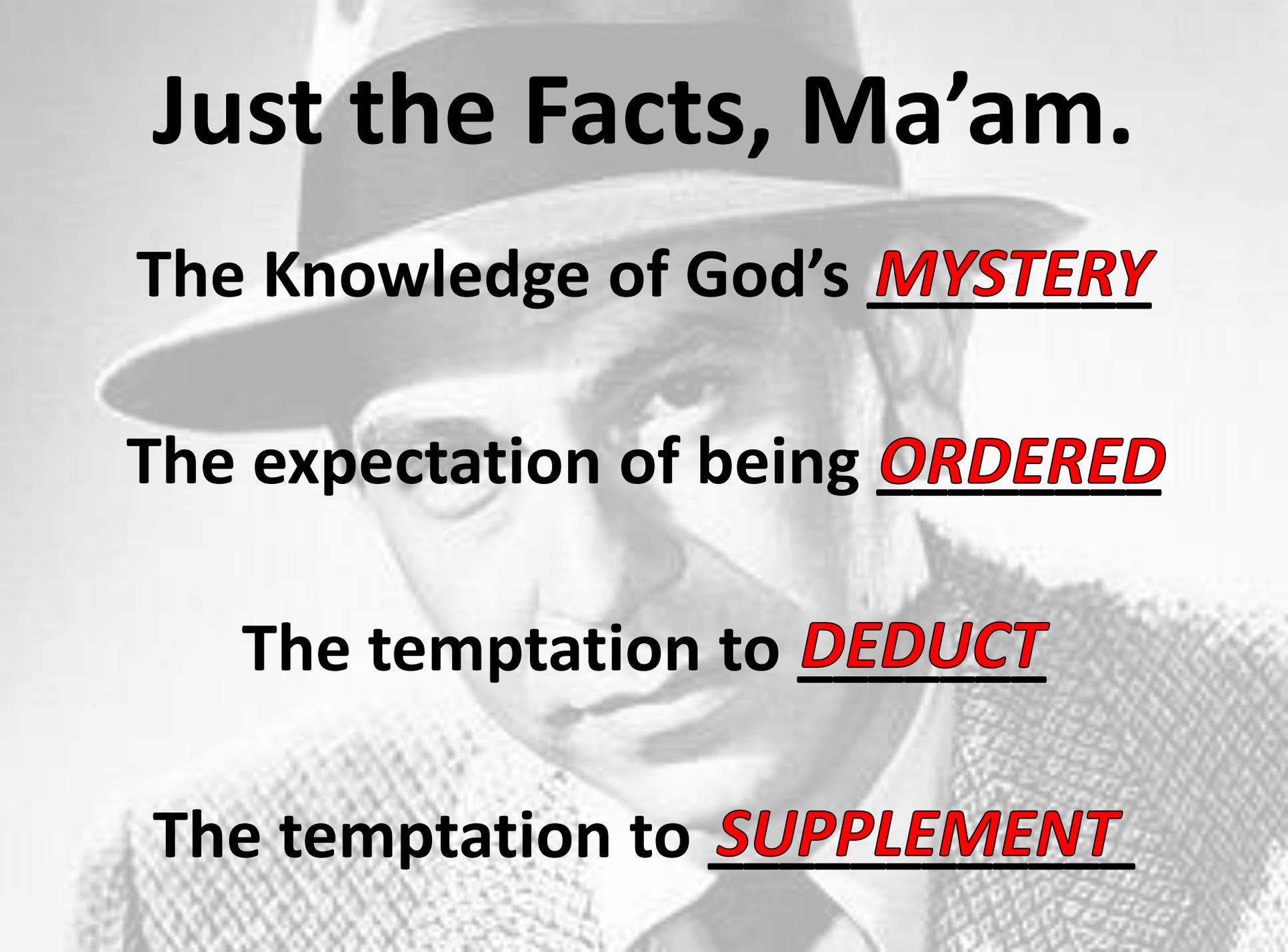
He doesn't hold on to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and tendons, develops with growth from God. If you died with Christ to the elemental forces of this world, why do you live as if you still belonged to the world? Why do you submit to regulations: "Don't handle, don't taste, don't touch"?

All these regulations refer to what is destroyed by being used up; they are human commands and doctrines. Although these have a reputation of wisdom by promoting ascetic practices, humility, and severe treatment of the body, they are not of any value against fleshly indulgence.

Screwing Your Head on Tight



Colossians 2:1-23



Just the Facts, Ma'am.

The Knowledge of God's MYSTERY

The expectation of being ORDERED

The temptation to DEDUCT

The temptation to SUPPLEMENT

Tradition or Ritual

Tradition is a link to our *PAST*

Tradition is a link to each *OTHER*

Assigning *VALUE*

What About You?

**Do you have the knowledge of God's
mystery?**

Do you need to evaluate your traditions