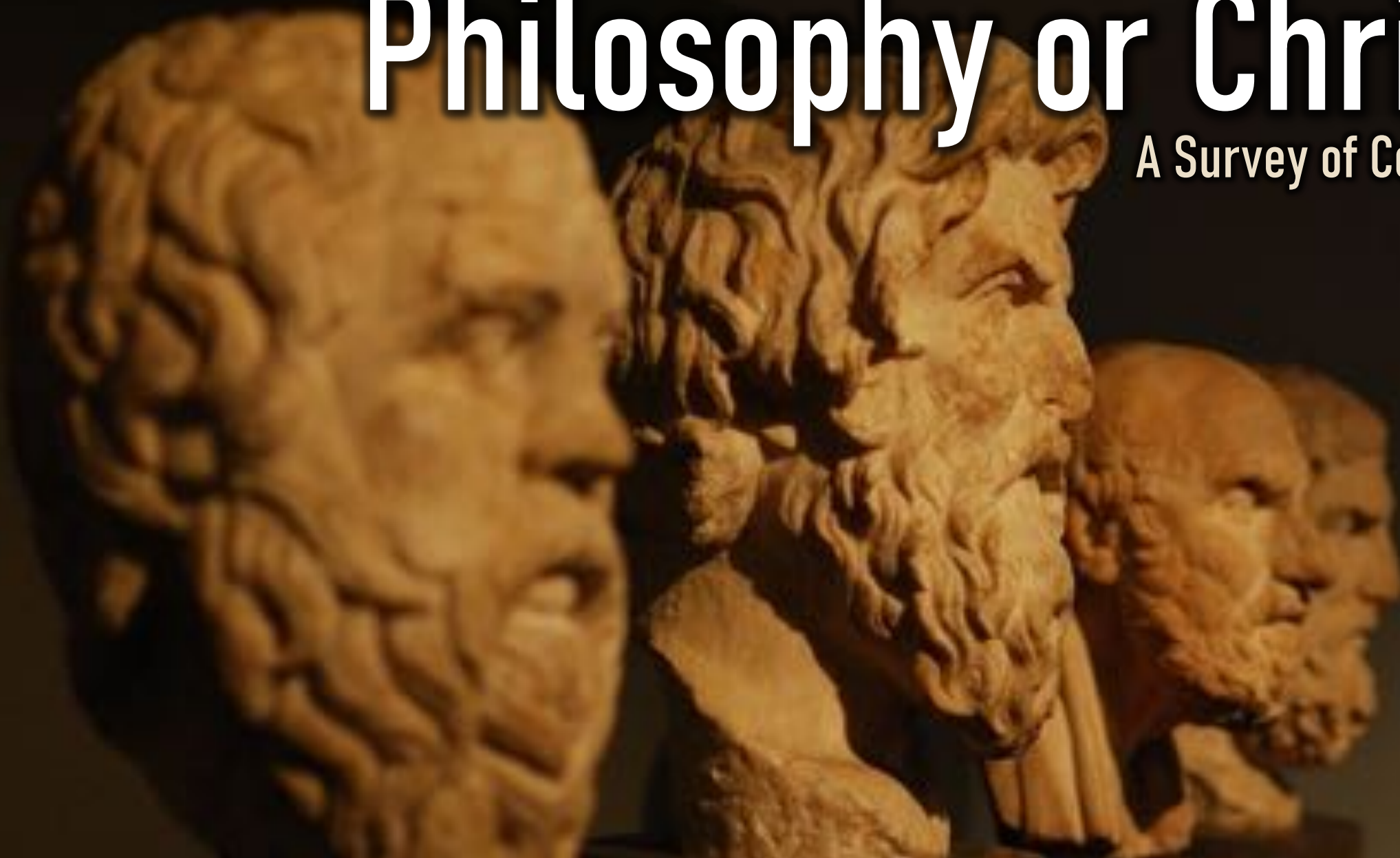


# Philosophy or Christ?

A Survey of Colossians



# The Inadequacy of Worldly Wisdom

- The root words of “philosophy” are “love” and “wisdom,” which suggest a noble intent—the Bible itself calling us to pursue wisdom (Prov 3:13–18; cf. Eccl 2:12–17; Jas 1:5–8; 3:13–18).
- While it has some value here and now, wisdom is incomplete and often devilish (Col 2:8; cf. Mark 7:1–13; 1 Pet 1:17–19; Gal 4:3, 8–9).
- We must be vigilant lest deceptive forms of so-called wisdom (e.g., worldly philosophy and human tradition) deceive us and take us captive (Col 2:4, 8, 18; cf. Rom 16:18; Eph 5:6; 1 Tim 6:20).

# The Sufficiency of Christ Jesus

- Paul confronts the dangers of worldly wisdom by proclaiming the nature and character of Christ Jesus. Specifically, the apostle highlights the following:
- Christ is (1) the image of God the Father, (2) the creator and sustainer of the universe, (3) the resurrected savior, and (4) the mystery (or wisdom) of God (Col 1:15–2:3; cf. 1 Cor 1:22–24, 30–31).
- We experience completion (or sufficiency) only in Jesus and in what he has revealed to us (Col 1:24–28; cf. vv. 9–14; 2 Cor 3:4–6).

# The Application of Divine Wisdom

- We must remind ourselves that our sufficiency and fulfillment are in Christ and that human wisdom is often deceitful and destruction. Watch! (Col 2:9–10a; cf. 1:28; 2 Pet 1:2–4)
- We must meditate on those things that are spiritual and not allow false knowledge to dictate our life. Think! (Col 3:1–2; cf. 2:20–23)
- We must eliminate sinful thoughts and behaviors and conform our lives to the image of Christ Jesus, prioritizing holiness, love, and submission. Imitate! (Col 3:5–4:1; cf. 2:6; 2 Pet 1:5–11)