

A Word Study by Pastor Melissa Scott, Ph.D.

Elements / στοιχεῖον

Galatians 4:3

“Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under **elements** of the world.” (στοιχεῖα)
noun-acc-neut-pl

Galatians 4:9

“But now, after that ye have known God or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly **elements** whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?” (στοιχεῖα)
noun-acc-neut-pl

Galatians 5:25

“If we live in the Spirit, let us also **walk** in the Spirit.” (στοιχῶμεν)
verb-sub-pres-act-1p-pl

Galatians 6:16

“And as many as **walk according to** this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.” (στοιχήσουσιν)
verb-ind-fut-act

Colossians 2:8

“Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the **rudiments** of the world, and not after Christ.” (στοιχεῖα)
noun-acc-neut-pl

Colossians 2:20

“Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the **rudiments** of the world why as though living in the world are ye subject to the ordinances...” (στοιχειων)
noun-gen-neut-pl

Hebrews 5:12

“For when the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first **principles** of the oracles of God...” (στοιχεῖα)
noun-acc-neut-pl

Strong's #4747 στοιχεῖον – stoicheion something orderly in arrangement, serial constituent – (element, principle, rudiment).

Strong's #4748 στοιχέω – stoicheō to range in regular line, to march in (military) rank – (keep step), to conform to virtue and piety: – walk (orderly).

Outside of New Testament Usage of στοιχεῖον

- Aristophanes Eccl., 652: ‘length of a shadow’ by which time is calculated
- Plato linguistically refers to a sound that is in a series of others.
- Empedocles – Doctrine of Four Elements
- Stoa in Greek architecture – a covered structure used as a walkway or a meeting place.