

Colossians 2:16-23

Introduction: We come to the part of the book of Colossians where the Apostle Paul addresses religious issues facing the believers at Colossae. These issues were man-made, not God made. These issues took the attention of the believers at Colossae away from Christ and became an obstacle between the believers and Christ in their relationship to Him. Paul has reminded the believers at Colossae that Christ has destroyed the power of the enemy by means of the Cross. Therefore he addresses their need of putting their focus back on Christ and not on the "religious practices" of mankind.

I. God _____ Man Vs 13-16

- A. **Verses 13-15** speak of what God has done to set us _____ from the enslavement of the enemy and man's expectations.
- B. **Vs 16** speaks of our Biblical attitude toward the things man tries to _____ on the believer under the guise of religious behavior.

II. Let No _____ Vs 16

- A. The connotation is not that we should not submit to the authority of _____ in the Church. *Heb 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.*
- B. The connotation is not that we should not submit to _____ authorities. *1Pe 2:13 Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme;*
- C. The connotation is that we are not obligated to submit to those who would lead us _____ from the teaching of the Word of God.
 - 1. *Matt 7:15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.*
 - 2. *2 Pet 3:17 Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness.*
 - 3. *Vs 8*

III. Let No Man Judge You Vs 16-17

- A. **Judge**—to pronounce a _____ on you because of your behavior as a judge in a court of law passes judgment on a convicted criminal.
- B. "Since you have thus been delivered by Christ from the evils which surrounded you; since you have been freed from the observances of the law, let no one sit in judgment on you, or claim the right to decide for you in those matters. You are not responsible to man for your conduct, but to Christ; and no man has a right to impose that on you as a burden from which he has made you free." **Barnes NT Notes**
- C. **In meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the Sabbath days.**
 - 1. **In meat, or in drink**-in regard to following the Jewish "menu"
 - 2. **In respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the Sabbath days**-in regard to observance of the Jewish holy days
 - a. **A holyday**-OT Jewish festivals: _____, festival of unleavened bread, etc.
 - b. **The new moon**-special observances in the Synagogue on the _____ of the month
 - c. **The Sabbath day**-official worship of God on the _____ day of the week, instead of the 1st day of the week
 - 3. All of these were the Jewish influence on this church trying to lead them into a _____ form of worship, in observing the teachings of the OT law.
 - 4. All of these are a _____ of the coming Christ **Vs 17a**
- D. The _____ is of Christ
 - 1. Christ is the _____ of the body and should tell each member what to eat and observe.
 - 2. Since each believer is a part of the body of Christ, he/she is answerable _____ to Christ, and those whom Christ has appointed as under-shepherds.

IV. Let No Man _____ You Vs 18

- A. **Begile you of your reward**—deprive of a due _____. (This is the only place in the NT that this Greek word is used.)
- B. **In a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels**
1. The humility described here was nothing other than a "_____ - _____" for their true ungodly behavior—worship of angels
 2. Worshipping of angels
 - a. Placing angels in _____ place
 - b. Their _____ humility was presented thus: "I am not worthy to approach God, therefore I will approach the angels, who are lower than God. Thus, I will be showing real humility! (This sounds logical to the human mind but is nothing other than _____ religion!)"
- C. **Intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,**
1. They are pursuing the "deeper things of God" of which the Scripture is _____, therefore the human imagination takes over and anything is acceptable, as long as it is wearing a "religious label".
 2. By their own behavior they demonstrate their own vanity and _____— "vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind."

V. Let no man lead you into _____ the religious "criminal acts" of the false teachers in that they turned away from Christ and was trying to persuade others to do the same! **Vs 19**

- A. Christ is the _____ of the Body (the NT Church)
- B. The body is:
1. Is _____ together in Christ
 2. Is nourished and kept _____ by Christ
 3. Growing through the power of God _____

VI. Let no man stop you from thinking and reasoning from the _____ perspective. **Vs 20-23**

- A. If you are truly dead to the world through the power of Christ **Vs 20**
1. We are _____ to the rudiments of the world
 - a. **Dead**—as much dead to the world _____ salvation as we were dead to God before salvation.
 - b. **Rudiments**-those _____ things that make up the world's thinking and acting: Ex. Independence from God, refusal to submit to the truths of Scripture, etc.
 - c. Cf. Colossians 2:8
 2. We are not _____ to the religious ordinances of the world **Vs 21-22**
 - a. **Touch not, taste not, handle not**- All a form of man-made legalistic acts that are supposed to make God _____ and thus place us into a right standing before Him.
 - b. These are continually _____ according to what "religious" man finds more appropriate for the time. **Vs 22**
 - c. **Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility**-These things are indeed very _____ and ceremonial— " " **Vs 23**
 - (1) **Shew of wisdom in will worship**-they indicate that man had to _____ about what to do, even though it is not what God directed them to do
 - (2) **Neglecting of the body; not in any honor to the satisfying of the flesh**-actions which are _____ treatment to the body, and are yet of _____ value in curbing the sinful, selfish flesh

Conclusion: Let _____ man! Only _____ God and His Word!