

Celebrating Easter – 370 People | 3 Services | 2 Locations | 1 Message | 1 Glorious Truth = Gospel
Back to Colossians after GF & Easter = Resurrection | [Previous = Gospel...TIED...how to live...live free](#)

Text = Salvation isn't found in: Rules – Ceremonies – Traditions – Human Inventions...*bind you*
[Doctrine of the Gospel alone is abundantly sufficient for the salvation for every believer...frees you](#)
Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. ¹⁷These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God. ²⁰If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations— “Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch” (referring to things that all perish as they are used)— according to human precepts and teachings? These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.

Paul...gospel...immediately people: [I still have to This...That | Punish myself | 'Spiritual' Experiences](#)
[Stop adding anything to the Gospel!](#) | Distorts Truth - Divides People – Detains You
[Don't Trade Your Freedom in Christ for any kind of Captivity](#) | This one winds up P. Jeremy
[Anyone want live captivity? Joke](#) | IF YOU'RE FREE IN CHRIST...WHY WOULD YOU RETURN TO CAPTIVITY

1. **Beware of: Ritualism Replacing Righteousness (v16-17)**

Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath.

'Therefore' – Christ did on the cross = Cancelled the legal demands of death...disarming rulers...shame
• 'Let no one pass judgment on you...' Then it gives what we are not to accept judgment for...

Jewish Mosaic Ceremonies...Need food & drink restriction - Festivals – Sabbath Laws

Do not regard...fear...people who would condemn you for neglecting what Christ has freed you from
[When we allow...judge our adherence to religious ritualism – Allow decide our position before God](#)

- Makes sense to the young Christians...all these were in the OT...we should do this...right? **TEXT**
¹⁷These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. - **SHADOW NO REALITY...**
- The law...festivals...sabbath were the shadow of Christ | **Bread** = John 6 | **Passover** (1 Cor.5:7)
[We have the substance, why keep chasing the shadows? | A few ways to smell out ritualism:](#)
 - a. **Is it extra-biblical** - If it's not commanded in Scripture, beware of anyone who says it's necessary
 - b. **Is it transactional** - Do they claim that you gain or lose something spiritually
 - c. **Is it divisive** - Separates the “good” or “special” Christians from us regulars
[So should we not celebrate Christian Holidays? Good Friday - Easter – Christmas? Dollar Store](#)
[Bound to ritualistic ceremony vs. Free to observe and remember](#)

No holier day...significant weight | **Gratitude drives - Remembrances motivate - Joy envelops** | **1st ...second**

2. **Beware of: Mysticism Replacing Maturity (v18-19)**

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Mysticism – The pursuit of a deeper or higher subjective religious experience

- Belief that spirituality is perceived apart from the human intellect or the certainties of the Word
Feelings – Intuition – Sensations – Progressive Revelation Visions – Worship of Supernatural entities
[Irrational and anti-intellectual approach to faith is the antithesis of Christian Theology](#)
- False teachers claimed mystical union w/ God - Don't allow them to disqualify you...God qualifies you
- Asceticism – The denial of human possessions and pleasures are a spiritual goal (Poverty gospel)
- Angel Worship – Venerating them – Praying to them – giving them homage – **JOHN REVELATION**
 - [Looking for another intermediary between God and us...Christ closed the gap!](#)
- Going on about visions – [Deeply concerns me](#) | **Mystical Spiritual Experiences...promote heresy**

[Two kinds of miracles in world...The ones God ordains and the ones man creates...avoid one!](#)
Incredible energy is spent by spiritual charlatans...work a crowd into an emotional lather to take advantage
[How defraud people? Trade Truth for the pomp and pizzazz of pretend!](#) | **Ecstatic Experiences Sell**

One common 'puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.

- Warning: Prey on the insecure, undereducated, and vulnerable = Taking people captive
- Warning: Mishandle or Manipulate Word – Draw attention to themselves | [Some Easter...news](#)
[If you're in Christ, you don't need a mystical experience to confirm it...emotion high to establish it](#)
We Serve a God Greater than Goosebumps

Emotions are not your enemy...but all of our spiritual emotional experiences must be:
Rooted and a response to biblical Truth; Not Initiation Rites - Confirmations - Evidence of maturity!

- Growth comes from staying firmly connected to Christ, the head.
 - Source of a person's wisdom and direction, but also the source of breath and nourishment
- 3. **Beware of: Legalism Replacing Liberty (v20-23)**
If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations— “Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch” (referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to human precepts and teachings? These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.

Legalism: The religion of human achievement...argues spirituality is based on Christ plus human works
Submitting to regulations God hasn't set up and trading Christ's precepts for human teaching
“Freedom in Christ People” Vs. “Legalistic” – Ditch | [Permissive Vs Proudful](#) | [I can Vs You Shouldn't](#)
[Direct Commands vs. Wise Applications](#)

'My Christian freedom' Is carrying a lot weight for selfish compromise so we can act & look like world
Don't live legalistically...live doxologically

- You've probably heard, “Christianity is not a religion, it's a relationship” – [Gonna correct that](#)
 - **Christianity is a religion...James 1:27...which is founded on a relationship**
We follow a religion, but not one that relies on regulations to bring us to God
but one where God came to us and initiated the relationship by reconciling us through Christ His Son
Legalism is dangerous because it promotes behaviors that will or won't get you to God
The new legalism is what's called: Moralistic Therapeutic Deism – What is it?
 - Form of 'Christianity' that diminishes God's presence and power in our lives
 - Says Christianity is: Do good - Feel good – Be Nice and God will reward them | Country song
 - **Moralistic**: Try to do what's right
 - **Therapeutic**: The church powers your emotions, feel good, up to get you through the week
 - **Deism**: Believe God exists...but He exists for you
[This idea seems so innocuous: it's based on doing good and feeling good, and who doesn't want that?](#)
But it's just another form of legalism...because it's based on works that make you more and God less
These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.
 - Danger is it looks so good. It appears wise, but it's a self-made religion or a version of asceticism
 - Asceticism = (the appearance of extreme humility)
All this Legalism – Permissive Christianity – Moral Therapeutic Deism...Has no value
 - **Not only is it a corruption of what Christ has commanded, but it doesn't even keep us from sin...**
 - [It keeps us in captivity – Not freed by rituals, mysticism, or rules...freed by Christ](#)
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