

No more Chains Pt 2

Colossians 2:16-23

- Paul has just shared with the church that all of us were under a burden of debt that was impossible to pay, and through the Lord Jesus Christ coming down from glory and sacrificing Himself on the cross, He has now wiped clean the handwriting of requirements that was against us, so instead of the bill reading “**balance due**”, it now says “**Paid in full**”. Another aspect of Jesus work on the cross is that He disarmed the ranks of hostile angelic beings, for the weapons that were so successful against you **outside of Christ** are now rendered **powerless in Christ**.

V16-23

- **V16-17** this brings us to the second warning of the chapter which is “**Legalism**” **V16**, the first was **Intellectualism V8**, with the philosophies of man, and now we have connected to it the rules and regulations that outwardly make man look justified. For the goal of these rules are to make you feel like you’ve earned God’s favor by doing good and being a little bit better than everyone else. If that was true then it would nullify everything that we’ve just read about what Jesus accomplished upon the cross, He did all that, went through all that, because there was absolutely nothing that we could do that would have satisfied what our sin cost.
- So Paul is saying don’t let the glorious victory that Jesus has given to us on the cross be trampled under by someone telling you it wasn’t enough! If they point to **OT** verses about what the Jews could and couldn’t eat then point right back to this verse, Paul says those laws were a shadow of the things to come which was “**the grace of God**”, and once the substance “**Christ**” has come we no longer need a shadow, for the real is here > **1Tim 4:4-5**-the time of observing days, Sabbaths, and foods as under the Mosaic law are not binding upon the New Covenant Church, for the shadow has passed and the reality (Jesus) has come, so all foods are pure, all days belong to God
- **V18-19** a second warning is given “**Mysticism**” it’s when people get caught up in **experiences** over **scripture**, forgetting that if the experience doesn’t line up with scripture then you scrap the experience and hold on to the bible, instead people do the opposite, and thus cause themselves to go down a road that’s meant to “**cheat or steal**” their reward > **Gal 1:8-9**. It’s the same concept of **V8**, where the Devil is looking to steal, kill and destroy, before he just wants to kill us and send us to hell, now if your saved he wants to rob you of your joy, and your peace, and the way to do it is to cause you to think that you have to work and earn what God has given freely.
- So instead of walking by grace through faith, they taught people to live by good deeds and the praise of men, and give the appearance always that your spiritual, which you will think is producing humility but instead its hidden pride. Also instead of worshipping Jesus they encouraged them to worship Angels even though they truly didn’t understand any of it **V18**.

- Isn't this like man, he will profess to be an expert on things he really doesn't understand, he'll even write books about it and get on the New York best sellers list allowing him to go on a book tour charging people to hear him lecture about something he really is clueless about. **V19** Paul says the way to protect ourselves from ourselves is to keep our focus on the Head which is Christ and His Word, that's where our nourishment and growth comes from.
- **V20-22** brings us to our fourth and final warning of the chapter > **Asceticism V21**- holiness comes from self denial and self affliction, so no basic necessities and abuse yourself and that will make you set apart for God. We know in the OT there were times in which the Lord had some of the prophets do some really strange things, like Isaiah walking around naked, or Hosea marrying a prostitute, or Jeremiah with the ruined sash, the difference is it was a visual lesson of Israel's need to repent, and not the biblical way for an individual to draw closer to the Lord.
- Again all of this was man made, the first > **Intellectualism** meant to rob you of truth, the second > **Legalism** to steal your joy and peace and put you in bondage, the third > **Mysticism** to trust your senses that lie and deceive us all the time, and fourth > **Asceticism** to give us a false sense of assurance, that we have a part in removing our debt to God just like we pay our own bills in the natural we also do the same in the spiritual, and it plays to our ego and our pride.
- Paul reminds us that when we gave our lives to Christ we then died to self, the world, and its rules and regulations, we are now under the authority of God, His Word, and His Spirit. So why are you going backwards to place yourselves under man's traditions, his rules and regulations that he has placed above the Lord and His Word > **Mk 7:8**- which Jesus warned the disciples to avoid at all costs, for these things are leading them down a path heading for destruction.
- **V23** Paul says the allure is it looks spiritual, it gives the appearance of humility and of someone who no doubt is trying to please the Lord; why else would they subject themselves to this? People do it for all sorts of reasons, first it makes them feel special that their doing this and others won't or can't, second the enemy has lied to them and they believed it as they trust in experience over scripture, and third and most importantly, because instead of putting their trust in Jesus they've put it in something or someone else, and so their investing in something that has no eternal value whatsoever, which takes up all their time, talents, living a wasted life.