

“SO WHO IS RIGHT?”

Colossians 2:8-23

I. INTRODUCTION:

- A. Examining authenticity:
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
- B. Comparing philosophies with the “All-sufficient Christ”: vv. 8-10
 - 1. Traditions that jade our thinking: v. 8a
 - 2. The Sufficient Christ who corrects our thinking: vv. 8b-10
- C. The “All-sufficient Christ” is complete in: vv. 11-15
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.

II. CHALLENGING AUTHENTICITY IN THE MIDST OF CONFLICT: vv. 16-23

- A. Counterfeit legalism: vv. 16-17
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
- B. Counterfeit mysticism: vv. 18-19
 - 1.
 - 2.
- C. Counterfeit asceticism: vv. 20-23
 - 1.
 - 2.

III. PRINCIPLES TO PERSONALLY APPLY:

(Together becoming “people of the Word” in principle AND in practice)

- A.
- B.
- C.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Legalism: "Legalism is not the presence of laws. If the presence of laws is legalism, then God would have to be charged with promoting legalism since He has given mankind 613 laws in the Old Testament and thousands more in the New Testament. Legalism is also not the imposition of laws on someone else since the Bible sanctions parents and church leaders to impose laws on their families and church groups. Legalism is the conformity to a standard for the purpose of exalting self. It is a wrong attitude toward the code of laws under which a person lives. It is a fleshly attitude which conforms to a code of conduct for the purpose of exalting self. Having to do something is not legalism but the wrong attitude toward doing it, is. It suggests individuals are better than others because of what they do and don't do, and that God loves them more than someone else, because of what they do and don't do. Legalists have no gray areas believing every act is either black or white. Spirituality to them is doing the things on their good list and avoiding the things on the bad list, in spite of their Godless motives on the inside. Legalism is attractive because it appeals to their self righteous pride and their emotional feelings at the same time." *Dr. Charles Ryrie (Since legalism is not a Biblical word, any definition must be derived from the implications of Scripture, not direct statements)*

Legalism: "Legalism is the religion of human achievement. It claims that salvation is obtained and/or maintained on the basis of Christ plus human effort. It measures spirituality by one's ability to keep man-made rules and minimizes the importance of **motives**."

Mysticism: "Mysticism is the pursuit of a deeper or higher subjective religious experience.

Asceticism: Asceticism is one who attempts to gain God's approval by living a life of rigorous self-denial."