



THE THREAD

weaving Sunday's message through the week

Date: February 7, 2021

Passage: Colossians 2:16–23

Theme: Gospel Freedom (vs. Religion)

Main Idea: We must be aware of and avoid our natural tendency to improve upon the Gospel.

How the Gospel is “improved”:

1. By adding religious practices (16–17)
Problem: My relationship with Christ is about effects rather than the Cause
2. By requiring religious experiences (18–19)
Problem: My relationship with Christ is about personal exploits rather than corporate connectedness

Why these improvements don't work:

1. They are temporal and transitory (22a).
2. They are merely human inventions (22b).
3. They are ineffective against our sinful desires (23).

Gospel Point: Leave the work to Christ by submitting your life only to Him.

Application Questions:

- Why do you think we have this tendency to improve upon the Gospel?
- How in your life have you struggled in the past (or maybe even presently) with improving the gospel by religious practices? What has this passage taught you in regard to this?
- What types of religious experiences may we require to measure our relationship with Christ? How does what Paul says in v. 19 counter this?
- Given what Paul says here, what do we do with all of the commands found throughout the NT that describe ethical behavior of believers in Christ? Do we still need to obey these commands? What distinguishes the ethics of a Christian life from the rules and regulations spoke of here?

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