

“TRIUMPH!”

Colossians Chapter 2:11-23

I) TRIUMPH OVER TRESPASSES (v11-14)

(v11) *What about circumcision?* - Here in the New Testament we are told that we have been circumcised “without hands by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ.” (Galatians 6:15 - *For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation.*)

(v12) *Buried with Him in BAPTISM?* - This is in regards to identification; our old life dominated by sin has been put to death with Christ and raised by the power of God through FAITH in Christ!

(v13) *What is a TRESPASS?* - A *trespass* is the violation of a law. The Hebrew word translated as trespass means “a stepping aside from the (correct) path” (Genesis 31:36; Exodus 22:9). In the New Testament trespass is often a translation of a Greek word which means “a falling aside” The apostle Paul wrote: “God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them” (2 Corin. 5:19).

(v14) *Have you broken any of the “Ten Commandments”?*

1. Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.
2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image.
3. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath to keep it Holy.
5. Honor thy father and mother.
6. Thou shalt not murder.
7. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
8. Thou shalt not steal.
9. Thou shalt not bear false witness.
10. Thou shalt not covet.

II) TRIUMPH OVER PRINCIPALITIES & POWERS (v15)

(v15) *PRINCIPALITIES & POWERS* - Satan and all his demons (Romans 8:38; Ephesians 6:12), were disarmed and defeated by Christ’s death and resurrection, as well as His ascension made a public spectacle of their impotence. Speaking about His crucifixion, Jesus said, “Now is the judgment of this world; now shall the prince of this world be cast out” (John 12:31).

III) TRIUMPH OVER RELIGION (v16-17)

(v16-17) MacArthur writes, “*Let no judge you in food or drink*” - The false teachers sought to impose some sort of dietary regulations, probably based on those of the Mosaic law (cf. Lev. 11). Since they were under the New Covenant, the Colossians (like all Christians) were not obligated to observe the OT dietary restrictions (cf. Mark 7:14-19; Acts 10:9-15; Rom. 14:17; 1 Cor. 8:8; 1 Tim. 4:1-5; Heb. 9:9, 10).

Festivals - The annual religious celebrations of the Jewish calendar (e.g., Passover, Pentecost, or Tabernacles; cf. Lev. 23). *New moon* - The monthly sacrifice offered on the first day of each month (Num. 10:10; 28:11-14; Ps. 81:3). *Sabbaths* - The weekly celebration of the seventh day, which pictured God’s rest from creation. The NT clearly teaches that Christians are not required to keep it (Acts 20:7; Rom. 14:5, 6).” (Acts ch. 15 - **Freedom from the Law!** Romans ch. 14 - **Freedom not to judge!**)

IV) TRIUMPH OVER FALSE WORSHIP (v18-23)

(v18-19) **Beware of MYSTICISM** - the belief that direct knowledge of God, spiritual truth, or ultimate reality can be attained through subjective experience (as intuition or insight) through false humility or the worship of angels, Mary, saints or anything other than **Christ who is the HEAD**. Not only is He the HEAD, He is “*the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*” (John 14:6). Also 1 Timothy 2:5-6 - “*For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all*”

(v20-23) **Beware of ASCETICISM** - Wiersbe writes, “An ascetic practices rigorous self-denial and even self-mortification in order to become more spiritual. There is a definite relationship between legalism and asceticism, for the ascetic often subjects himself to rules and regulations: “*Touch not, taste not, handle not*” (Colossians 2:21). Certain foods or practices are unholy and must be avoided. Other practices are holy and must never be neglected. The ascetic's entire life is wrapped up in a system of rules.”

➤ **TRIUMPH THROUGH CHRIST!** Romans 8:31