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Three Dangers Threatening Your Church

Colossians 2:16–23

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“My dear Wormwood, The real trouble about the [situation] your patient is living in is that it is merely Christian…What we want, if men become Christians at all, is to keep them in the state I call Christianity And…

You know…Christianity and the New Psychology, Christianity and Faith Healing…Christianity and Vegetarianism…If they must be Christians, let them at least be Christians with a difference. Substitute for the faith itself some Fashion with a Christian coloring. Work on their horror of [getting bored with] the Same Old [Gospel].”

[8] See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.

Colossians 2:8

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We don't need more <u>than</u> Christ…
We need more <u>of</u> Christ.

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DANGER #1: LEGALISM

[16] 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.

Colossians 2:16

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Legalism Explained:

Legalism adds performance
to the basis of our standing before God

Legalism Exposed:

Jesus has crucified legalism.

[17] These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.

Colossians 2:17

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DANGER #2: MYSTICISM

[18] 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,

Colossians 2:18

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Mysticism Explained:

Mysticism seeks spiritual fullness apart from Christ and His Word

1. Spiritual Superiority

1. Spiritual Superiority
2. Subjective Self-Authentication

Mysticism Exposed:

Don't buy in to spiritual FOMO.
Just keep growing in Christ

[19] 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.

Colossians 2:19

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[18] And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.

Colossians 1:18

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DANGER #3: ASCETICISM

[20] 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— [21] “Do not handle, Do not taste, Do
not touch” [22] (referring to things that all perish as they are
used)—according to human precepts and teachings?

Colossians 2:20–22

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[23] 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.

Colossians 2:23

Asceticism Explained:

Asceticism seeks spiritual transformation through a distorted view of self-denial

Asceticism Exposed:

You've died to the world; so don't trust the world to change you

Legalism: Stubbornly refuse to put up fences where the gospel doesn't.

Mysticism: Desire to *grow* more than you desire to *feel*.

Asceticism: Don’t reduce faith to outward practices alone

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