

# Introduction

## COLOSSIANS

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Paul wrote to the church in Colossae to fortify it against false teachers who might try to impose strict rules about eating and drinking and religious festivals. Paul shows the superiority of Christ over all human philosophies and traditions. He writes of Christ's deity ("He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation" [1:15]) and of the reconciliation he accomplished with his blood. He explains that the right way of living in this world is to focus on heavenly rather than earthly things. God's chosen people must leave their sinful lives behind and live in a godly way, looking to Christ as the head of the church (1:18). Paul wrote while in prison, probably about the same time as he wrote to the Ephesians.

(The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Col.)

| Colossians 2:6–7 (ESV)

| <sup>6</sup> Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, <sup>7</sup> rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

- How did you receive Christ as Lord?
- Walk with Christ in Spirit
- You are established in your faith
- This is what you were thought; faithful and thankful

In other words, your faith is in Christ Jesus and his finished work on the cross!!

Didn't Jesus say, "IT IS FINISHED"?

| John 19:30 (ESV)

| <sup>30</sup> When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

| Colossians 2:8 (ESV)

| <sup>8</sup> 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.

- blepo - BEWARE; watch out for lies and deceit
  - no one steals you away from the Truth
  - philosophy; sophisticated or eloquent belief
  - and empty delusion
  - after paradossis - specifically. traditional Jewish law, or ordinance
  - stoiceion - orderly arrangement in series of the world
  - AND NOT according to Christ
1. That is to say, are you checking off the box?
  2. Does repetitive series of tradition and ordinance please God?
  3. Or was this something Jesus came to abolish by fulfilling the law?

| John 14:6 (ESV)

| <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

This is what Paul means, do not do things that are not according to Christ;

- that is not the way
- that is not the truth
- that does not bring you life

ONLY Jesus does!! Think about the thief on the cross.

“All denominations, traditions and ordinances die at the cross of the thief that ONLY saw Christ; That ONLY believed in Jesus and recognized him as the God he claimed to be.”

-Unknown

| Colossians 2:9–10 (ESV)

| <sup>9</sup> For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, <sup>10</sup> and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.

- Jesus is God
- He makes the rules
- He has the authority

| Colossians 2:16 (ESV)

| <sup>16</sup> 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.

- Don't let anyone judge you or try to make you feel bad about not celebrating Jewish customs; in food, drink, holy day, or feasts of new moons and sabbaths

| Colossians 2:17 (ESV)

| <sup>17</sup> These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.

- This is a shadow of what is to come
- This all belongs to Christ and we find IN Christ alone

| Colossians 2:20 (ESV)

| <sup>20</sup> 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—

- If you died with Christ on the cross
- Then you died to the traditions and ordinances of the world
- Why do you submit to these Jewish customs; in food, drink, holy day, or feasts of new moons and sabbaths

- as if you were alive in the world

You have been born again; a new creation in christ Jesus!!

| Colossians 2:23 (ESV)

| <sup>23</sup> 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.

- In doing all of this, you appear to be wise, promoting religion, subjecting yourself to these regulations, but they have no value against sin.

| Matthew 23:25–28 (ESV)

| <sup>25</sup> “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. <sup>26</sup> You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean.

| <sup>27</sup> “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people’s bones and all uncleanness. <sup>28</sup> So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

Jesus forgives your sins

Jesus saves you

In Jesus we find our rest

| Luke 6:5 (ESV)

| <sup>5</sup> And he said to them, “The Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath.”

“Jesus was proclaiming to the world, especially to the legalistic Pharisees, that He was greater than the Law and above the laws of the Mosaic Covenant because, as God in flesh, He is the Author of those laws. Unable to keep the Law, however, the Pharisees had instituted a complex and confusing system of Sabbath laws of their own that was oppressive and legalistic. They had set up strict laws regarding how to observe the Sabbath, which included 39 categories of forbidden activities. In essence, these

religious leaders had made themselves lords of the Sabbath, thus making themselves lords over the people.”

| Matthew 11:28–30 (ESV)

| <sup>28</sup> Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.  
| <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

- Come to me if you are tired
- Come to me if you want rest
- I will give you the rest that you need

If our rest is in Jesus, then our rest is not just something we practice everyday, it is eternal. Jesus IS the sabbath. This also calls us out about only meeting Jesus one day out of the week at church.

- Pray
- Study scripture
- Pray some more
- Fellowship
- Worship

In this we find Jesus, and thus, our rest; our sabbath.