

## Scripture:

Colossians 2:16-19

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

## Notes:

Dependence on Christ Alone (2:16-19)

Independence in Christ Alone (2:20-23)

The most dangerous threats to the church come from within.

True salvation comes from faith in Christ's completed work not in conformity to man-made rules or in pursuit of self-actualization

### Warning Against Legalism

- Legalism — we must obey in order to gain or stay in good favor with Christ.
- Freedom — we get to obey in response to Christ's pursuit of us and His perfect offering of grace.
- Both lead to obedience, but the heart behind it is very different — even in opposition.
- Dietary Guidelines (Questions of food and drink)
- Calendar Guidelines (Festivals, New Moon, Sabbath)
- Shadow vs Substance
- Signs of legalism

### Warning Against Mysticism

- Asceticism — philosophy or lifestyle characterized by few possessions or luxuries; matter is evil, spirit is good.
- Worship of Angels
- Detailed Visions
- NOT holding fast to Christ
- Disqualify — to judge as a referee that someone is not worthy to receive a prize

"I know men and I tell you that Jesus Christ is no mere man. Between him and every other person in the world there is no possible term of comparison. Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne, and I have founded empires. But on what

did we rest the creation of our genius? Upon force. Jesus Christ founded his empire upon love; and at this hour millions would die for him ... If Socrates would enter the room, we should rise and do him honor. But if Jesus Christ came into the room, we should fall down on our knees and worship him." —Napoleon Bonaparte (allegedly)

If Christ is God and if He is the "focal point of all creation", then how foolish is it to rely on some sort of man-made addition?

#### THIS WEEK

1. Remind — Continually remind yourself who you are because of Christ. Don't allow pride to belittle what Christ did. Don't allow self-abasement to underestimate what Christ did. Take your eyes off self, and put them on Christ.
2. Remain — Jesus said to "abide" in Him (John 15). Stay connected to Christ by staying in the Word. The way to combat either side of these false teachings is to know the truth...the promises of God.
3. Question — Are your standards consistent with Scripture's standard or are they man made?
4. Trust — Christ's work on the cross and His resurrection are sufficient.