

The Illusion Of Legalism

Colossians 2:16-23

Introduction

I Paul's Warning Concerning False Teachers

- A. Do not let anyone **judge** you by:
 - 1. What you eat or drink - Mk 7:18-19; 1 Cor 8:8
- B. Do not let anyone judge you with regard to:
 - 1. A religious **festival** - Rom 14:5-6
 - 2. A New Moon celebration - Isa 1:13-14
 - 3. A **Sabbath** day - Ex 20:8-10; Heb 4:9-11
 - a. These are a **shadow** of the things that were to come
 - b. The **reality** is found in Christ - Heb 10:1; Gal 3:24-25
- C. Do not let anyone who:
 - 1. Delights in **false** humility
 - 2. Delights in the worship of angels - Rom 1:25
 - a. **Disqualify** you for the prize - Gal 4:9-11

II Paul's Observations Concerning False Teachers

- A. They go into detail about what they have **seen** - Ezek 13:1-3
- B. Their unspiritual mind **puffs** them up - 1 Cor 8:1; 13:4
- C. They have lost **connection** with the Head - Gal 5:2-4
 - 1. From whom the whole body - Eph 4:16
 - a. Supported, held together by its ligaments and sinews
 - b. Grows as **God** causes it to grow - Jn 15:4; 1 Cor 3:6

III Paul's Reproof Concerning False Teachers

- A. You **died** with Christ to the basic principles of this world
- B. Why do you **submit** to its rules: - Gal 4:9-11
 - 1. Do not handle!
 - 2. Do not taste!
 - 3. Do not touch!
- C. These are all destined to **perish** with use, because:
 - 1. They are based on human commands - Matt 15:9b
 - 2. They are based on human teachings - Mt 15:9a; 1 Tim 4:1
- D. Such regulations have an **appearance** of wisdom:
 - 1. With their **self**-imposed worship

- 2. With their false humility
- 3. With their **harsh** treatment of the body
- E. But they lack **any** value in restraining sensual indulgence

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time this week to consider the following:

- 1. Share a time when someone made you feel that you needed something in addition to simple faith in Christ. What impact did that encounter have on you and your walk with God?
- 2. In what ways were the Colossians being judged by the false teachers among them? What “additional” things do so-called believers today push on fellow believers as “essential” for salvation? Why are these “additional” practices unnecessary?
- 3. How does Paul characterize these false teachers? What to you think attracts certain people to legalism, mysticism and asceticism? What are the benefits? What are the dangers?
- 4. According to Paul in verse 23, what value does legalism have in producing a godly life? What does produce a godly life [Hint: Read Romans 6:22-23]? How can you apply what you have learned to the areas of weakness in your life this week?
- 5. Take time to thank God that you are not justified by your works but simply through faith in the finished work of Christ. Praise Him for the changes He has already made in your life and thank Him in advance for the changes He will make as you simply draw close to Him and keep your eyes fixed on the “author and perfecter of your faith”!

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

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