

OUTLINE

The Dangers of Legalism: **Colossians 2:16-19**

Pastor Adam Hall ☞ Dryden First Baptist Church ☞ Feb 20, 2022

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

Introduction and Background

- do you see a Christian as a person who has to _____ certain rules and regulations?
- and if a person does not live out this _____ of rules and regulations then they are not a Christian?

Robert Capon, in his book called "Kingdom, Grace, Judgment", makes the bold declaration that "the religion shop has been closed" in the church of Jesus Christ

He writes:

For Christians the entire religion shop has been closed, boarded up, and forgotten. The church is not in the religion business. It never has been and it never will be, in spite of all the ecclesiastical turkeys through two thousand years who have acted as if religion was their stock in trade. The church, instead, is in the Gospel-proclaiming business.

It is not here to bring the world the bad news that God will think kindly about us only after we have gone through certain creedal, liturgical and ethical wickets; it is here to bring the world the Good News that "while we were yet sinners, Christ died for the ungodly." It is here, in short, for no religious purpose at all, only to announce the Gospel of free grace.

- the _____ teachers in the Colossian church were teaching that religious observance meant fullness of life in Christ
- the false teachers were preaching that the Colossian church _____
 - 1) drink the right _____
 - 2) eat the right _____
 - 3) celebrate the right festivals
 - 4) _____ on the right day
- they professed that if the Colossian church did not _____ these rules then they were not true followers of the Lord
- these false teachers put a _____ upon the Colossian church that not only was not necessary but was crushing this church

- but following Jesus is _____ Jesus Christ and His work of grace in our lives
- following Jesus is about the grace, mercy that is offered _____ to us who are stained with sin and not about attaining grace and joy by the things that we have accomplished!
- in the next two sermons we will be looking at the _____ teachings of the false teachers in the Colossian church

- Paul has already _____ us about the issues of this church in Colossians 2:8
Colossians 2:8 _____ to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and _____ deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to _____.

- so this false teaching was a philosophy and an _____ deceit
- this false teaching had its _____ in human tradition and in demonic powers
- this false teaching did _____ have its origin in Jesus Christ

- after this warning, Paul goes on to speak about the _____ and work of Jesus Christ in Colossians 2:9-15

2:9 – Jesus is _____ God and fully man

2:10 – Jesus is the sovereign Lord over _____ creation

2:11-15 – Jesus circumcises sinful _____, Jesus gives life, Jesus forgives all sin through faith in His powerful work

- Jesus accomplishes this wonderful work for the _____ by His substitutionary death upon the Cross
- Jesus _____ the punishment for sin that we deserve and takes it upon Himself and then gives the believer a _____ slate from our sin before the eyes of the Lord

- in Colossians 2:16-23 we see a clear picture of what this philosophy and empty deceit was all about!
- we will be just looking at Colossians 2:16-19 in this sermon

Outline:

- 1) (2:16) Stop Being Judged
- 2) (2:17) Substance is Christ
- 3) (2:18) Silly Beliefs
- 4) (2:19) Super Source of Growth

1) (2:16) Stop Being Judged

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.

- we have another important word written by Paul in this verse
- the famous “therefore” so we must find out what the “_____” is there for!

- with the use of the “therefore” in this passage Paul is referring to the _____ of Christ and the work of Christ in Colossians 2:6-15

- Paul is saying that because Jesus is fully God and _____ man, Jesus is sovereign Lord, Jesus gives _____ and forgives sins, “therefore” “let no one pass judgment on you”

- judgment is coming from a group of people who are taking these Christians in Colossae to task because of what they were _____ doing

- Paul does not want these Christians to be discouraged by the _____ of these false teachings
 - these false _____ were making unbiblical conclusions about the Christians _____ observing the Jewish foods laws or celebrating the Jewish festivals
 - these false teachers were teaching salvation by _____
 - Paul commands these believers in Colossae not to be _____ by these false teachers

 - we see this same tactic used by the _____ teachers in the world today, when mobs of people try and pressure others to support certain causes and do certain things and if you do not bow the knee then you are on the outside and not part of the inner circle of good people

 - but the reality of course is none of us are _____ in and of ourselves, there is only one good person
 - that person is Jesus Christ who is _____ of the church and all authority

 - unfortunately, these false teachers did not pay attention to what _____ had to say about judging others in the gospel of Matthew
- Matthew 7:3-5 Why do you see the _____ that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? 4 Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is the log in your own eye? 5 You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.
- we see later in Colossians 2:18 that these false teachers had a telephone pole in their eye because they were _____ful (puffed up)
 - they had a sinful _____ (sensuous mind) and they were trying to judge people who had fullness of life in Christ!

 - there are 5 areas that Paul commands them not to allow anyone to _____ them
 - these 5 areas are speaking about ways in which a person can be cleansed by the OT law and regulations and thus the person would be able to enter into the presence of God for _____ in the Temple
 - if a person did not _____ these Old Testament laws, that are now fulfilled in Christ, they were declared unclean
 - so we have these false teachers teaching a legalistic and _____ based religion

1) Food Laws

- in the Old Testament there were numerous _____ laws that the people of God were to obey
- in Leviticus 11 we have an extensive _____ of the foods that Israel was not to consume
- in the _____ Testament these food laws kept creating controversy between the Jewish Christians and Gentile converts
- in Colossians there is the same conflict
- a group of Jews were trying to _____ laws to be observed that had been fulfilled in Christ
- these false teachers were instructing these Christians that if they did not obey the Jewish food laws, then they did _____ have fullness of life in Jesus Christ

2) Drink Laws

- likely, Paul is referring to the Nazarite vow or the priestly restrictions where a person who was a Nazarite or a priest was not allowed to drink alcohol (Numbers 6:3; Leviticus 10:9)
- we need to be clear, Paul here is _____ commanding that we avoid alcohol or partake in alcohol

- but he is saying that you should not allow anyone to _____ you if you do not follow certain beverage restrictions in the Old Testament

3) Festivals

- in the gospel of John we have two of the most important festivals of the Jewish religion mentioned

a) the feast of the Passover – which is a celebration of the Lord’s deliverance of Israel from the land of Egypt

b) the feast of booths – which is a celebration of the Lord’s provision while Israel was in the wilderness

- what these false teachers were advocating was if you did not celebrate these _____ then you did not have fullness of _____

4) New Moon Celebration (Numbers 25:11-15)

- this festival was also called the _____ of trumpets

- this was a festival at the start of a new _____

- what these _____ teachers were advocating was if you did not celebrate the New Moon then you did not have _____ of life

5) Sabbath

- the Sabbath was the day of _____ for the people of God to sit back and be reminded of the wonderful faithfulness of the Lord

- it was also the reminder that the Lord is the sovereign _____ of the universe

- the Lord made the earth in six days and then he rested on the seventh day (Genesis 2:1-3)

- this day was celebrated on _____

- what these false teachers were advocating was if you did not _____ the Sabbath then you did not have _____ of life

- these were weekly, monthly and yearly festivals that these false teachers were demanding these Christians celebrate but they were _____!

2) (2:17) Substance is Christ

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

- this passage triggers many people who have not seen the super-importance of Jesus Christ

- many people want _____ and regulations so they can check the box and gain God’s approval

- they think because they have enough boxes checked they have God’s approval _____

- but we do not need any more approval from the Lord than the _____ and work of Jesus Christ

- the fact that God _____ His Son Jesus shows us His great and wonderful love for us and that is all the _____ we need

1 John 4:9 In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might _____ through him.

- these _____ laws, drink laws and festivals are just “shadows” they are not the “substance” who is _____

- when you see your shadow that _____ is just a representation of you, the shadow is not _____

- thus these festivals and food _____ were given to _____ us to Jesus Christ but they do not trump Jesus Christ

- the book of _____ uses the word “shadow” to help us understand the importance of Jesus Christ

Hebrews 10:1 For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true _____ of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make _____ those who draw near.

- the sacrifices were _____ or representations of the work of Christ that _____ us to the Lord Jesus Christ

- but there is only _____ sacrifice could make perfect those who draw _____ and that is the sacrifice of Jesus Christ

- "the substance belongs to Jesus Christ" which means that all of these Old Testament _____ and festivals _____ us to Jesus Christ

- they cannot not bring us to Jesus Christ or _____ us in Jesus Christ

- Jesus addresses this issue in the "Sermon on the Mount" with regards to the _____ and Himself

- Jesus _____ the law and He is the accurate interpreter of the law

- when you disagree with Jesus and His _____ on the law, you are disagreeing with _____ and His word!

Matthew 5:17-18 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the _____ or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to _____ them. ¹⁸ For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

- the Old Testament _____ us forward to the Lord Jesus Christ

- the Old Testament is a _____ of the reality of Jesus

3) (2:18) Silly Beliefs

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,

- Paul gives the Colossians another _____ "let no one disqualify you"

- the command here in Colossians 2:18 is very similar to "let no one _____ you" in Colossians 2:16

- this has the idea of being robbed of a _____ that ought to be yours

- this idea is connected to the Olympic games that were celebrated in the Roman Empire

- if someone competed and won they were given a _____

- Paul does not want these false teachers to _____ them of the prize of Jesus Christ and _____ of life that is found in Jesus Christ

- if the Colossian church gives into the _____ of these false teachers they will be robbed of the _____ in Christ

- Paul continues with a warning of three more _____ practices of these false teachers

i) Asceticism

- many versions of the Bible translate this " _____ humility"

- Paul is warning that these false teachers might have an outward appearance of _____ but it is fabricated

- they might even whip themselves to show people that they are _____

- they might _____ themselves food and water to _____ that they are super spiritual because they are fasting

- but it is only a show; this is _____ humility

ii) worship of angels

- Paul continues to explain these false teachers as those who worship _____
- we know that angelic worship was a _____ in certain sects of Judaism
- Paul exposes these false teachers as individuals who are worshipping angels _____ of Jesus Christ who is Lord of all creation, even angels!

Colossians 1:16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all _____ were created through him and for him.

iii) going on in detail about visions

- Paul identifies the source of their _____ and what they believe in is founded in their own visions - - they _____ the word of God and cling to visions or dreams that they think they have received from the Lord
- but Paul has some things to say about their evil _____

- Paul writes that these false teachers are _____ by two evil things

i) puffed up without reason

- being “_____ up” in the Bible refers to someone who is consumed with themselves
- to be puffed up means that you are arrogant and _____
- this word is used to speak about the problem with the Corinthian church because they were a _____ that was puffed up and arrogant
- the Corinthian church had knowledge but that was making them arrogant, they needed _____ to build up the body of Christ!

1 Corinthians 8:1 Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." This "knowledge" puffs up, but love builds up.

ii) sensuous mind

- these false teachers had a mind of the _____
- this means that their mind was controlled by _____, Satan and the world
- these false teachers do not have a _____ of the Holy Spirit but have given into sin with their thoughts and teachings

4) (2:19) Super Source of Growth

and not holding fast to the Head,

- these false teachers have not been _____ to the “Head”
- the head of course is _____ Christ

Colossians 1:18 And he is the head of the body, the church.

Colossians 2:10 and you have been filled in him, who is the _____ of all rule and authority.

- Jesus is the head which means that He is the _____ authority for the church and also Jesus is the source of life and growth for the Christian

from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.

- because these false teachers were not _____ to the Head, who is Jesus, they will never _____ and never be built up

- we cannot _____ by man-made rules and regulations that come from people who are not connected to Jesus Christ as our _____
- we can only _____ when we are connected to Jesus Christ

Application

1) Stop Trying and Start Trusting

- the false teachers were unfortunately teaching that if the Colossians did not _____ these certain rules then they did not have _____ of life
- you see all sorts of nonsense like this going on around us in our Canadian culture
- many people in Canada believe in a _____ based religion
- they might believe that their _____ works have outweighed their bad deeds, therefore, they are a good person and going to _____
- they might _____ that if they carry out the golden rule of doing good to others then they are truly a good person that the Lord would accept into heaven
- these ideas are the “religion shop” and that “shop” has already been shut _____ by Jesus Christ

- some people in society _____ even try and live good, they just live for the moment and try and obtain the most amount of what they think is “satisfaction” while they are on _____
- I remember having a big debate with a classmate of mine when I was in high school
- he came from a lower income household and loved smoking weed
- he tried to persuade a group of us that the _____ commandments were made up by rich people who did not want poor people to steal from them
- but that idea was a serious “smoke” screen to keep that classmate from thinking about a _____ God who hates sin

- the truth about the 10 commandments is that no one can keep the law _____
- therefore since we are _____ by nature and corrupt in our heart we _____ the judgment of God for our sin

- that is why Jesus came, He came to _____ the world from sin
- that is why Jesus is _____ because He dealt with sin once for all
- even those who do not have the 10 commandments break their own personal _____ standards all the time
- we are _____ sinful humans but thanks be to God for the grace of Jesus Christ

- Hebrews talks about the amazing _____ of Jesus upon the Cross
- Hebrews 9:12 he entered once for _____ into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own _____, thus securing an eternal redemption.

- because of Christ and His own blood, God secured for His people a redemption from sin _____
- this means because of Christ we can have _____ life, freedom from sin’s power and authority and be declared pure and _____ before the Lord
- it is just as if we have _____ sinned before the Lord
- stop trying to climb the ladder to God by good _____ based religion; the Lord Jesus came to earth so that we could be free
- Look to Jesus and what He has _____ for sinners like you and me!
- trust Him and never _____ in your trying

2) Jesus is the Head

- after hearing such a _____ of scripture someone might wonder if Jesus commands anything at all
- or they might wonder if they have to be worried about _____ anymore
- let me assure you, if Jesus has _____ you He has called you to follow Him
- Paul writes about this in chapter 3!

- because Jesus Christ has raised us to _____ life we are to seek and to think about new things
Colossians 3:1-2 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your _____ on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

- because Jesus Christ has raised us to new life we are to put to _____ the sin in our lives
Colossians 3:5 Put to _____ therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

- because Jesus Christ has _____ us to new life we are to put on the fruits of the Holy Spirit
Colossians 3:12-13 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate _____, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

- what some false teacher on the internet is teaching is _____, we are called to keep connected to the _____!

- why do we keep connected to the head, so that we can _____

- let us pray that God keeps us connected to _____

- let us pray that God causes us to _____ in holiness for His glory day by day!

- Colossians 2:19 states "the whole _____ is nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, and grows with a growth that is from God"

- Lord makes us such a church by Your Growth Amen!

Next Week:

- Colossians 2:20-2