

The Sufficiency of Christ | Colossians 2:16-23

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.

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--"Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch" (referring to things that all perish as they are used)--according to human precepts and teachings? These have indeed 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.

Shadow v. Substance

1. There are two forms of legalism:
 - a. Placing Christians back under the Mosaic law;
 - b. Adding things that aren't Biblical and making them a standard;
2. Legalism holds Christians back and distracts them from pursuing holiness; legalism reduces the work of Christ.

Mysticism v. Maturity

1. Mysticism promotes idolatry; giving the outward appearance of spirituality, but inwardly lacking an actual transformation; stifles Christian growth;
2. The Lord Jesus is the ONLY mediator between God and man;
 - a. "For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." (1 Timothy 2:5)

Remarkable v. Regenerate

1. Syncretism promotes the appearance of wisdom and godliness, but is rooted in self-made hope and none of it enables you to pursue holiness or resist temptation;
2. Only through regeneration can we put the world to death, resist temptation, and concentrate on the Lordship of Jesus Christ
 - a. "Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth." (Colossians 3:2)

Benediction | Colossians 3:1-4

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.