

Colossians 2.16-30 – Spiritual Slavery

Enemy of Freedom in Christ #1: Legalism (vv. 16-17)

1. Syncretism: The false teachers were borrowing from other religions and philosophies and adding them to the Gospel – creating a new religion
2. Use of Judaism (**Verse 16**)
 - a. Judge = Condemn, Discriminate, Exclude
 - b. Kosher Dietary Laws of Leviticus 6
 - c. Festival Days = Jewish Holy Days (Lev 23)
 - d. New Moon – Required, Burnt Sacrifices at the Beginning of each month (Num 10, 29; 1 Chronicles 23)
 - e. Sabbath – Regulations on the Sabbath Day to keep it holy (Not in the Bible; created by Religious Leaders of Judaism to guard the Sabbath Day – Found in the *Mishnah*)
3. They are Shadow, Christ is the Substance (**Verse 17**)
 - a. Jesus has Fulfilled the Law of Moses, thus abolishing the Dietary Restrictions, the Festivals, and the sacrifices (Jesus is Enough)
 - b. We Worship the Lord of the Sabbath on Sunday
 - c. Temptation: To Live In a Legalistic Way and Call it Christianity
 - d. A Christian is One Who Comes into a Saving Relationship with Jesus Christ
 - e. The External Appearance *versus* The Internal Transformation

Enemy of Freedom in Christ #2: Mysticism (vv. 18-19)

1. Mysticism: Emotional and Experiential observances involving dreams, visions, angel worship, etc. (Seeks spiritual highs through outward observances and experiences)
2. Disqualification is NOT loss of Salvation, but is loss of Heavenly Reward (**Verse 18**)

3. False Humility
 - a. Asceticism = Self-Abasement (See Below)
 - b. Worship of Angels – not good enough to go directly to God (false humility)
 - c. Visions – they bragged about in detail
4. Spiritual Pride – Puffed Up (Full of Hot Air)
5. True Humility – I Am A Sinner Saved By Grace!!!
 - a. The Glory of Christ was Demeaned and Blasphemed by the False Teachers
 - b. The Word of Christ was Abandoned or Manipulated by the False Teachers
6. We Believe in *Sola Scriptura* – Scripture Alone
7. Good News: Doubt, Worry, Feelings do NOT negate the Truth of Salvation → Hold onto the Head (Christ) (**Verse 19**)
8. Sanctification – God Growing You in Christ is SLOW!

Enemy of Freedom in Christ #3: Asceticism (vv. 20-23)

1. Asceticism: Harsh, Regulating Form or Ritualistic, Religious Practice Thought To Bring One Closer To God (Religious Penance)
2. Freedom in Christ
 - a. TO handle, taste and touch (**Verse 21**)
 - b. FROM Elemental Spirits (Demonic Subjugation) (**Verse 20**)
 - c. FROM Manmade religious rules that will pass away in the end (**Verses 20-23**)
3. Our Problem is Sin (**Verse 23b**)
 - a. Rules DO NOT Change the Heart
 - b. Only Christ Changes the Heart (New Birth)
 - c. God loves you now as much as He will love you in the future (Infinite Love!)
 - d. Our Response: **Colossians 3.2**