

THE ULTIMATE WHY

Living Our Lives
For God's Glory

COLOSSIANS 3:17



Is Christ Enough? Colossians 2:8-23

Warning #1: Resist Philosophy/Empty Deceit (2:8-15)

Why? **Jesus is More Than Enough (2:9-10)**

What God has done for Us (2:11-15)

New Covenant (2:1f) Forgiveness (2:13f) Victory (2:15)

Warning #2: Resist Legalism (2:16-17)

Legalism: Trading Your freedom in Christ for useless, man-made legalistic rules

Issue #1: FOOD AND DRINK - dietary regulations (probably based on the Mosaic law)

Reality: Believers in Christ are not required to follow the OT dietary restrictions

Issue #2 - FESTIVALS - annual religious Jewish celebrations

Reality: Believers in Christ were not required to attend these

Issue #3: NEW MOON - refers to the monthly sacrifice offer at the first of the month

Reality: Believers in Christ were not required to make sacrifices

Issue #4: SABBATH - the weekly celebration of the 7th day that celebrated God's rest after creation.

Reality: The New Testament is clear that Christians do not have to keep the Sabbath [every week beginning at sunset on Friday evening and ending after dark on Saturday evening]. (Acts 20:7)

Warning #3: Let No One Steal Your Identity (2:18-19)
disqualify - act as an umpire for you (self-appointed religious referees) [BTSB]

Five expectations of the false teachers:

- 1) Insisted on asceticism
- 2) Insisted on the worship of angels
- 3) Shared in detail about visions
- 4) Conceited (Puffed up) with out reason by their sensuous mind
- 5) Resisted the truth that Christ is more than enough [EBC]

Warning #4: Resist Asceticism (2:20-23)

Reference is to the dietary restrictions the false teachers imposed as a means of attaining salvation [EBC]

Presentation: Appearance of wisdom

Reality: Self-made religion (foolishness)

COLOSSIANS 2:8-23: See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹ For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰ and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. ¹¹ In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹² having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³ And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

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.

²⁰ 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 — ²¹ “Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch” ²² (referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to human precepts and teachings? ²³ These have indeed an 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.

3 ways to live in the spiritual reality of freedom in Christ

- 1) Be strong in the Word of God and keep worshiping Christ.
- 2) Refuse and resist all substitutes
- 3) Don't be afraid to live your life unshackled
- Swindoll (Insights on . . .Colossians)

Discussion Questions

1. Read Colossians 2:8-15. How does baptism serve as a picture of our salvation through Christ? [CSB]
2. Read Colossians 2:18-19. Have you ever run into a “self-appointed religious referee” like Paul is talking about in these verses? How did you respond?
3. Read Colossians 2:20-23 What correction did Paul offer in these verses? What steps can we take to avoid false teaching and false doctrines as we seek to follow Jesus today? [CSB]
4. Pray for God to give you the strength and courage to live in the spiritual reality of freedom in Christ.

THEY ULTIMATE WHY?

TAKING A DEEPER LOOK AT WHO WE ARE,
WHAT WE DO, AND WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO