



The death of Christ was not only a pardon and a canceled debt; it was a glorious triumph.

Applying the truth of Jesus' victory in light of the Colossian heresy.

COLOSSIANS 2:16-23, LESSON #8

Gerald Cumby, Teacher

Colossians 2:16-17, "So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ."

- ✓ **So let no one judge you:**
 - ✓ As the little words "if" and "be" are so important in understanding God's Word, the little word "**so**" is also significant.
 - "So" connects or ties this thought with the previous thought.
 - *Since* Jesus won such a miraculous and glorious victory on the cross, we are to **let no one judge you in food or in drink** or in other matters related to legalism.
 - ✓ We need to remember...If our lives are centered on Jesus and what his death on the cross (blood sacrifice) and resurrection to a new life means to our future, our lives have no place for legalism.
- ✓ **Food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, which are a shadow of things to come:**
 - ✓ The laws in the Old Testament had certain requirements that are done away with in Jesus (Old Covenant/New Covenant) regarding such things as **food** and **sabbaths**.
 - ✓ Those laws were not *bad*, but they were **a shadow of things to come**. Once the **substance** – Jesus Christ – has come, we don't need to **shadow** any more.

It is as Jesus said, "I did not come to do away with the blood atonement, the requirement to gather to worship, the importance of holding fast to My Father's requirements for living the good life (living a holy and moral life); I came to fulfill all those commandments and to live a holy and acceptable life. You will understand it as I teach you in my life experiences and my death."

Colossians 2:18-19, “Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase that is from God.”

Reward(s)...

It is true—We will be judged. There will be rewards and the lack of rewards.

Something to remember...our service does not earn our salvation. Our service does, however, impact our rewards.

- ✓ **Rewards are due in addition to our crowns.**

How are they judged? 1 Corinthians 3:13-15, “That Day will appear with fire, and the fire will test everyone’s work to show what sort of work it was. If the building that has been put on the foundation still stands, the builder will get a reward. But if the building is burned up, the builder will suffer loss. The builder will be saved, but it will be as one who escaped from a fire.”

Note: Both builders will be saved, but only one will be rewarded.

And that reward will be on the basis of works.

We are saved by grace....and we are rewarded according to deeds.

Anything beyond that is speculation.

- ✓ **And...REMEMBER THIS...Although our secret sins will be revealed, the sins of the saved will be revealed as forgiven sins.....pardoned transgressions.**
- ✓ **Our sins will be revealed. Why? So that God’s grace can be revealed!**
- ✓ **Are you worried about having to bow in shame...as sins are revealed to heaven’s population? NO!**

“Shame is a child of self-centeredness. Heaven’s occupants are not self-centered, they are Christ-centered.

You will be in your sinless state. No resentment...just worship.”

Max Lucado

“The one who trusts in Him will never be put to shame” (1 Peter 2:6).

Heads bowed in worship? NO DOUBT!

- ✓ **As our sins are revealed....God’s tabulated list of grace is proclaimed!**
God’s merciful verdict will echo through the universe. We will...and only then will understand the depth of His goodness and love.

- **Sin #1...Grace and mercy covers it.**
- **Sin #2...Sin and mercy covers it.....Itemized grace.**

So...It is imperative to not get off the base path...Not letting the foundational truths of God's salvation message be changed...Not worshipping anyone or anything but the Lord God Jehovah and His Son Jesus the Christ. The Holy Spirit is constantly and consistently pitching the Jesus Aspect of Salvation. He convicts and challenges us to repent and live a life of holiness.

These false teachers ... “Taking delight in false humility and worship of angels.”



- The aspects of **false humility** and the **worship of angels** were parts of the false teaching troubling the Colossian Christians.
- Paul initially touches on these themes and brings to mind those things throughout the letter of Colossians.

“If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves.” – Galatians 6:3

“I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me, but he said to me, “You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God.” -- Revelation 22:8-9 ESV

- **Intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, and not holding fast to the Head:**

- ✓ This describes the spiritual arrogance of these false teachers and those who believed what they taught.
- ✓ There are few things more dangerous among Christians than spiritual pride and arrogance.

“I would hate to know that my sin of spiritual pride and arrogance are the two characteristics most like Lucifer (Satan). Pride and arrogance were his downfall.”

- **From whom all the body grows with the increase which is from God:**
This is God's plan for church growth. We remain faithful and connected to Jesus (our **Head**), and God gives the increase.

LEGALISM SHOULD NOT RAISE ITS HEAD IN THE CHURCH. HOWEVER, RESPECT FOR THE SANCTUARY, FOR THE WORD OF GOD, FOR THE PASTORAL STAFF IS IMPERATIVE.

Colossians 2:20-23, “Therefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as *though* living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations—“Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle,” which all concern things which perish with the using—according to the commandments and doctrines of men? These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, *false* humility, and neglect of the body, *but are* of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.”

- **Do not... do not... do not: *This is a perfect description of legalistic religion—defined more by what we don’t do than by what we do.***
- **Don’t be misled...*Christianity is a moral religion; it does have clear moral boundaries. But at its foundation, Christianity is a religion of positive action.***

You died with Christ from the basic principles of the world which perish with your using of such...according to the commandments and doctrines of men. These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom... but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh:

- *Remember—This is the key to living above legalism.*
- *Our identification with Jesus in both His death and resurrection becomes the foundation for our Christian life, instead of our “traditions of men.” Traditions of men...meaning, “Men telling us what, why, where, and when to do something.” The Bible is and should always be our guide in life.*
- *We need to be careful, alert and wise with our Bible knowledge...Not letting it lead us into an inappropriate and confrontational relationship with God and man!*

Luke 2:52, “And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.”

And we should do likewise!