

- I) V16 INTRO: Therefore let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon
  - a) REVIEW: Paul just stated that the Colossians at one time were *dead* in trespasses and sins (V13)
    - 1) POINT: Though they had physical life, yet they were spiritually dead
    - 2) RESULT: They were separated from God, dead in the uncircumcision of our flesh
  
- II) BUT GOD: Because of His love for man, did something about this
  - a) He took upon Himself human flesh had paid the price that was required for forgiveness
    - 1) Ro 5:8 For God demonstrated His love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us
    - 2) Ro 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord
  
- III) V13 SPEAKS: Of their former condition: *they were dead* in trespasses and uncircumcision
  - a) KEY: Being dead in the uncircumcision of our flesh is literally without a relationship with God
    - 1) Eph 2:12 At that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and *without God* in the world.
    - 2) YET: Instead of just leaving us in that condition God did something about it
  
- IV) V14 KEY: Jesus wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us (eliminating our debt)
  - a) *Handwriting*: A "charge list", better known today as an IOU
    - 1) Paper was made out of papyrus, and ink had no acid, and would not bite into the paper: ink would lie on paper. To save money, the scribe would sponge the ink off paper that had been written on, making it as good as new. God banished the handwriting that was against us by sponging it off with the blood of Jesus
    - 2) He took the law, which was *contrary to us* and nailed it to the cross
  
- V) V15 HAVING DISARMED: Principalities and powers He made a public spectacle of them triumphing
  - a) Satan's demonic hosts had invaded earth and captured the minds of its inhabitants
    - 1) FIRST: Jesus disarmed (pillaged, ransacked, plundered) Satan and his army
    - 2) Heb. 2:14-15 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death --that is, the devil--and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.
  
- VI) SECOND: Made a *public spectacle* of them (Victorious troops, conquered enemies)
  - a) This is a Triumphal parade, leading captured princes and kings, with the spoils of victory
  
- VII) V16-17 *THEREFORE*: *Let no one judge you* in food or in drink or regarding a festival or a new moon
  - a) Food and drink: Speaks of Jewish dietary laws
  - b) Festivals: Speak of Jewish festivals, or holy days
    - 1) Passover/unleavened bread, Pentecost, the Feast of Trumpets, Yom Kippur, Tabernacles, The Feast of Dedication (Hanukkah), and Purim
  - c) New moon: The beginning of the civil year (Oct.) has special sacrifices that are to be offered
  - d) Sabbaths: Not only the actual Sabbath, but other days of mandated rests as well
  
- VIII) POINT: Do not let false and legalistic people pressure you into following their rules
  - a) Jesus took God's law, fulfilled it, and set you free from it
  
- IX) DURING THIS TIME: The Law of Moses was referred to as the Yoke of the Law
  - a) In the New Testament, it is regarded as a form of *religious slavery*
    - 1) It speaks of forced subjection, a burden, or something that is oppressive

- I) JESUS CAME: To set man free from such a burdensome *yoke of bondage*
  - a) Mt 11:28-30 Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light.”
    - 1) PICTURE: Farmers used to yoke the young ox with the old experienced ox to train them. The old ox will take the major load and the young one will be walking along and learning from him.
    - 2) POINT: Jesus is saying to those who are exhausted and burdened from carrying a load they cannot bear that He will bear that load as they walk with Him
  
- II) SADLY: The combination of Moses' law with the grace of God crept in to the church very early
  - a) The apostles had to deal with this intrusion of Law in a church council meeting in Jerusalem
    - 1) Ac 15:1 Certain men came down from Judea and taught the brethren Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved
  
- III) THE APOSTLE PETER: Stood against them in that meeting, clarifying grace
  - a) Ac 15: 10-11 Why do you test God by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved in the same manner as they
    - 1) POINT: Salvation is made possible by the grace of God, and not human effort
  
- IV) GRACE IS DIFFICULT TO GRASP: *Especially* if we have had a lifetime of living under human rules
  - a) It can be a cage that we want to return to because we cannot fathom liberty in Jesus
    - 1) Gal 5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage
  
- V) V17 THESE THINGS: Are a shadow of *things to come* but the substance is of Christ
  - a) The Purpose of law was to prepare you for the incredible grace of God in salvation
    - 1) Gal. 3:24-26 The law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith. Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the supervision of the law. You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus
  
- VI) V18-19 LET NO ONE: Defraud you of your reward taking delight in false humility and worship of angels
  - a) THOUGHT: Let no man take the prize from you that the judge in the contests has assigned you
    - 1) This is an allusion to the Olympic and Isthmian games
    - 2) The Colossians had fought and conquered under the direction of Christ, and he, as the sole judge in this contest, had assigned to them the prize
  
- VII) NOTICE: In false humility and worship of angels
  - a) As is common, these false teachers have every appearance of humility and holiness
    - 1) Humility: Signifies not only lowliness of mind, but also affliction of mind
    - 2) Worship: Speaks of reverence and modesty
  
- VIII) POINT: False teachers very often afflict their souls with fasting and walk in a false humility
  - a) This can be very appealing and very deceiving, as you cannot measure up to their selfless lives
    - 1) The problem is that you cannot see that the real motivation is pride and selfish efforts
    - 2) Instead of humility, their fleshly minds are actually puffed up with a feeling of superiority!
    - 3) They have month long fasts, or knock on doors, or go on missions: you cannot measure up!
  
- I) SOME OF THEM: Were practicing the worship of angels

- a) Ex 20:2-3 I *am* the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me
- II) KEY: They may have seen them as mediators between God and man, presenting our prayers to Him
- a) We have one mediator, and do not need any intercession, from angels or anyone else (Jn 14:6)
- 1) 1 Ti 2:5 There is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus
- III) V19 AND: Not holding to *the Head* from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints
- a) Not *holding*: Not faithfully clinging to; not holding fast to; not depending on
- 1) POINT: They are not holding on to Jesus by faith as the only Savior
- 2) Eph 4:15-16 speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head-- Christ-- from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to *the effective working* by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.
- IV) V20-21 THEREFORE: If you *died* with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why as though living
- a) Paul has been reminding them of their new life in Jesus
- 1) V12 *Buried* with Him in baptism
- 2) V12 *Raised* with Him through faith
- 3) V20 *Died* with Christ
- V) POINT: If you have renounced all hope of salvation from the observance of Jewish rites
- a) THEN: Why do you subject yourselves to regulations?
- 1) The false teachers were saying that God is so great, you cannot come to Him without our help
- 2) You need to come through keeping certain food regulations, and an angel
- 3) Sounded reasonable, but was really false humility
- VI) V22 FACT: These man made rules appear to make you righteous but have no power to change the heart
- a) They only deal with things that perish with the using: Things that are not permanent
- 1) In performing these kinds of rituals, you enter into religious bondage: Legalism
- VII) V23 THESE THINGS: Indeed *have an appearance* of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility
- a) THEY APPEAR: To make you righteous because they deal with outer appearances
- 1) Those who practice this kind of religion often look very righteous
- 2) Mt 23:27-28 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs that indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. Even so you also *outwardly appear* righteous to men, but *inside* you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness
- VIII) YET: They have no power to change the inner person because the heart remains corrupt
- a) As much as you may desire to be free of the cravings of your flesh, works will not set you free
- 1) You must understand: You receive a brand new life in Jesus
- 2) Ezek 36:26 A new heart also will I give you, and *a new spirit* will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.