

***Stop
Chasing
Shadows***

Colossians 2:16-18

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16 Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:

17 Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.

18 Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,





Introduction

A. Shadow is not reality but shows the existence of reality

B. Life is not in the shadow but in the source

John 1:5

And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

John 8:12

Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

C. Problem of worshipping shadows instead of the Savior

Legalism

Legalism is the attitude that I can establish or improve my standing before God by my activities.

I. Censure Confronts Grace (v 16)

A. A warning given

Colossians 2:8

Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

I. Censure Confronts Grace (v 16)

**B. Forced keeping of Old Testament (OT) dietary laws
denies grace**

1. Christ's instruction

Matthew 15:11

**Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but
that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man.**

I. Censure Confronts Grace (v 16)

B. Forced keeping of OT dietary laws denies grace – cont'd

2. Peter's lesson

Acts 10:11-15

11 And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending upon him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth:

12 Wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air.

13 And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat.

14 But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean.

15 And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common.

I. Censure Confronts Grace (v 16)

B. Forced keeping of OT dietary laws denies grace – cont'd

3. The Council's consideration

Acts 21:25

As touching the Gentiles which believe, we have written and concluded that they observe no such thing, save only that they keep themselves from things offered to idols, and from blood, and from strangled, and from fornication.

I. Censure Confronts Grace (v 16)

C. Forced keeping of OT religious holidays denies grace

1. The reason for the holiday is what is important

Exodus 13:8-10

8 And thou shalt shew thy son in that day, saying, This is done because of that which the LORD did unto me when I came forth out of Egypt.

9 And it shall be for a sign unto thee upon thine hand, and for a memorial between thine eyes, that the LORD's law may be in thy mouth: for with a strong hand hath the LORD brought thee out of Egypt.

10 Thou shalt therefore keep this ordinance in his season from year to year.

I. Censure Confronts Grace (v 16)

C. Forced keeping of OT religious holidays denies grace

2. The ritual of the holiday is not as important as the reason

Romans 14:6

He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks.

I. Censure Confronts Grace (v 16)

D. Forced keeping of the OT Sabbath denies grace

1. Man's way condemned by Christ

Matthew 12:5-8

5 Or have ye not read in the law, how that on the sabbath days the priests in the temple profane the sabbath, and are blameless?

6 But I say unto you, That in this place is one greater than the temple.

7 But if ye had known what this meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice, ye would not have condemned the guiltless.

8 For the Son of man is Lord even of the sabbath day.

I. Censure Confronts Grace (v 16)

D. Forced keeping of the OT Sabbath denies grace

2. Early church met on the first day of the week

Acts 20:7

And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.

1 Corinthians 16:2

Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.

II. Christ Confirms Grace (v 17)

A. Dietary laws – The example of a godly life

Leviticus 11:47

To make a difference between the unclean and the clean, and between the beast that may be eaten and the beast that may not be eaten.

John 6:53

53 Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.

54 Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.

55 For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed.

II. Christ Confirms Grace (v 17)

B. Religious holidays – Pictures of Christ

- 1. Passover – God’s deliverance from bondage**
- 2. Feast of Weeks – God’s provision**
- 3. Feast of Tabernacles – God’s leading**
- 4. Day of Atonement – God’s forgiveness**
- 5. New moon – God’s sovereignty**

John 5:39

Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

II. Christ Confirms Grace (v 17)

C. Sabbath – God’s rest

John 19:30

When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

Matthew 11:28

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

III. Conceit Constricts Grace (v 18)

A. Rebukes instead of restores

Galatians 6:1-4

1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

3 For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.

4 But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.

III. Conceit Constricts Grace (v 18)

B. Judges instead of being judged

John 7:24

Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.

Luke 6:37

Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven:

III. Conceit Constricts Grace (v 18)

C. Are you?

Judgmental and critical

Worried about appearances

Shallow

Externally righteous

Frustrated

Legalistic

Accepting and helping

Honest and transparent

Engaging

Internally righteous

Free

Grace-filled

John 8:36

**If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall
be free indeed.**