

Calvary Chapel of El Cajon Women's Bible Studies

COLOSSIANS 2:16-23

Lesson 9

REVIEW:

Reflect **on** Jesus' love for you through Colossians 2:13-15. What do you see?

FIRST DAY:

Read and study Colossians 2:16-23 inductively. See last page.

SECOND DAY: Read Colossians 2:16-17

1. There is a tendency for believers to feel so undeserving and unworthy of the forgiveness for their sins that they feel they must do something to earn or deserve their salvation. This makes them vulnerable to the tactics of the judges of Colossians 2:16, who desired to put the believers back under the bondage of the Mosaic Law. This is called *legalism*. List three things from verse 16.
2. Note the word *therefore* in verse 16. It refers to Colossians 2:9-15. Why would knowing the truths of these verses prevent one from doubting his or her salvation?

Challenge: Find Scriptures that refute the belief that these rituals must be observed.

3. How does Colossians 2:17 describe these legalistic rituals?
 - a. The purpose of Old Testament rituals was simply to point us toward Christ. Paul calls them a *shadow* of the real thing. Who is the substance (*body*)? Colossians 2:17b
 - b. A *shadow* anticipates the arrival of someone, and the Someone (our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ) has arrived. Why do you think people would insist on staying in the *shadows* when they could be abiding in the Light of Jesus Christ?

THIRD DAY: Read Colossians 2:18

1. Print Paul's second warning in this passage from Colossians 2:18a.
 - a. What did Paul say the beguilers (deceivers) were trying to deprive or trick the Colossian Christians out of?
 - 1.) *Reward* may be defined as the prize of our position in Christ. How would a Christian lose the liberty he has in Jesus if he submits to man-made restrictions?
2. Another temptation to which some Christians fall victim is “mysticism” whereby they allow experiences to take precedence over the Word of God. The false teachers were declaring it is salvation plus visions, salvation plus worshipping angels, salvation plus higher experience. How would you combat this kind of thinking if you were confronted by it?
3. Colossians 2:18 addresses the idea that taking a position on worshipping angels is dealing with something about which they knew nothing. Why is it so important to base our beliefs only on what Scripture reveals?

FOURTH DAY: Read Colossians 2:19

1. In Colossians 2:18 the false teachers were trying to *beguile* the believers by saying their secret knowledge was the way to God. What was their problem according to Colossians 2:19a?
 - a. Why is it so necessary for the body to be connected to the *Head*? Colossians 2:19b
2. What happens to a believer who does not draw his *nourishment* from Christ?
3. What did you learn from Colossians 2:19 that you are applying to your life today?

FIFTH DAY: Read Colossians 2:20-23

1. Colossians 2:20-23 contains a question. Summarize Paul's basic question in your own words.
 - a. What does it mean to be *dead with Christ*? See Romans 6:6

 - b. Write the phrase from Colossians 2:22b which exposes the source of these *ordinances*.
 - 1.) In what way does the recognition of the source of these *commandments* and *doctrines* keep you from ever being ensnared by them?

2. Colossians 2:20-23 deals with "asceticism", the practice of living a life of rigorous self-denial in an effort to gain greater favor with God; salvation. Believers who fall under the spell of asceticism do not understand that we are *complete in Him*. (Colossians 2:10) In verse 21, the three prohibitions are apparently some of the requirements insisted upon by these false teachers. List them here.

3. According to verse 23, what three things does Paul say these ordinances have a *shew of* (an appearance of)?
 - a. These practices could appear to others as being super spiritual. Because of this, what attitudes might be produced in the person keeping these ordinances?

*Salvation does not depend on a person's self discipline or keeping of ordinances,
but the finished work of Christ's death and resurrection.*

*Christians must lay aside sinful desires,
but doing so is the result of our new life in Christ not the cause of it.*

- selected

Colossians 2:16-23

VERSE

WHAT THE VERSE IS SAYING

- 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,
- 19 And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God.
- 20 Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances,
- 21 (Touch not; taste not; handle not;
- 22 Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men?
- 23 Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh.

Who:

When:

What:

Where:

Why:

How:

What does this passage mean?