



CHRIST THE KING
ALL THINGS HOLD TOGETHER IN HIM



Shadows to Substance

Colossians 2.16-23

Main Idea

Adding rules to the Gospel cannot stop sin, only holding fast to Christ and Him alone can satisfy.

Overview

I. Self Made Religion Will Never Satisfy You

- In light of the 2.13-15, we see the “Therefore”
 - Since Christ defeated all the rulers & authorities & put them to open shame...therefore do not submit to anything that is added to His work to attempt to stop the thing He died to defeat
- Because of the Sufficiency of Christ’s Atonement: Let no one judge you according to what food you eat or what you drink
- Because of the Sufficiency of Christ’s Atonement: Let no one judge you according to a festival, new moon, or Sabbath
 - This is likely short hand for all the 1T laws
 - Paul says of these things that they were only shadows and Christ is the substance of these laws
 - All the laws pointed to Him...He is the fulfillment of them
 - No one should judge the practice or non-practice of these laws because Christ fulfilled them
- No one should also be disqualified on the basis of:
 - Ascetism: Removal from the things of this world to be made more holy
 - Worship of Angels
 - Going on in details about visions
 - Puffed up w/o reason by his sensuous mind
 - Paul has taught us that those in Christ are already qualified in receiving the share of the inheritance of the saints in light (1.12-13)
- Colossians teaches the Christian that they died to the world, so they shouldn’t submit to rules made by man as they perish (2.20-22)
 - They may appear wise, but they cannot stop sin (2.23)
 - This is what we need the most
 - This is what Christ accomplished

II. Hold Fast to Christ Alone & Find Satisfaction in Him

- Christ is the Head of the Body
 - By Him ALL things have nourishment and grow
- As opposed to growth by human teaching...holding fast to Christ alone creates a growth that comes from God
 - Holding fast to Christ only will give you true growth that never dies as it comes from God

Questions

Discussion Starter: Have any of you attempted to create rules to “stop the flesh?” How has that gone?

1. Read Colossians 2:16-23. What is the purpose of the “Therefore” in vs. 16? What’s the danger if we skip over that one word?
2. What are some things that we use to “judge” others in their spirituality?
3. In verse 23, why is it self made rules “have indeed an appearance of wisdom?” Why is that attractive to us?
4. Why is it we think creating rules will “stop the indulgence of the flesh?”
5. Why do these additional rules ultimately do not “stop the indulgence of the flesh?”
6. Why is stopping the indulgence of the flesh even important at all?
7. Read verse 17 again. What does it mean “shadows” and “substance”? Can you give some examples of how Christ is the substance of the OT shadows?
8. How is it holding fast to Christ gives growth to the body that is from God?
9. What does this “holding fast to Christ” look like in the day to day?
10. Where are some other places in Colossians 1 and 2 that discuss the Sufficiency of Christ?

Accountability Question: Are there any places where you are judging others or disqualifying others instead of holding fast to Christ?