

# CENTERED

## *Part 3: Center on Christ, not Legalism (Colossians 2:8-23)*

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### I. WARM-UP DISCUSSION

If we love the Lord Jesus shouldn't we do things for him...but isn't that being legalistic?

### II. WARNINGS AGAINST LEGALISM (COLOSSIANS 2:8-23)

#### Definition

Legalism is a system of rules and regulations for achieving both \_\_\_\_\_.

#### A. MAIN IDEA

- Righteousness before God is not attained through works or man-made philosophies. It is attained only and fully in Christ Jesus (Col. 2:8).

#### B. WARNING AGAINST \_\_\_\_\_ (COL 2:8-10)

- (2:8) Hollow and deceptive philosophy which depends on human tradition: Salvation = Christ + human tradition
- (2:9-10) Everything the Christian needs for a right standing before God is found in Christ alone. Salvation = Christ + nothing else.

#### C. WARNING AGAINST \_\_\_\_\_ (COL 2:11-17)

- (2:11) Paul is speaking metaphorically of the believer's identification with Christ (New Covenant, Luke 22:20) as opposed to a physical circumcision (Mosaic Covenant, Lev. 12:3).
- (2:12) Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup> metaphor is that the Christian practice of water baptism represents an identification with Christ in his death (cf. Rom. 6:4-6).
- (2:14) In Roman days a criminal's crime was posted on a cross. Here Paul is saying the believer's indebtedness to God because of sin has been paid by Christ and metaphorically nailed to the cross.

- (2:16) Judaizers were teaching that one pleases God by eating and drinking the right foods and by keeping certain religious rituals and holy days. Paul cautions them that in contrast to these heresies, don't let anyone hassle you because of what you eat or drink or because you do not celebrate certain religious festivals centered on the New Moon, or a Sabbath Day (2:16b)
- (2:17) Since Jesus Christ has fulfilled the OT Law (Matt. 5:17) there was no need to go back to the OT Law (religious festivals, etc.)

**D. WARNING AGAINST \_\_\_\_\_ (COL 2:18-19)**

- (2:18a) False humility: Possibly referring to a Pharisaical-like pride in keeping the law.
- (2:18b) Jews traditionally believed angels were the mediators who gave the Law to Moses.
- (2:19) These false teachers were not connected to Jesus nor did they acknowledge his headship of the church (Eph. 4:15).

**E. WARNING AGAINST \_\_\_\_\_ (COL 2:20-23)**

- Asceticism is the severe self-discipline and avoidance of all forms of indulgence, typically for religious reasons.
- (2:21-23) The philosophy of dualism was based on the principle that all matter is essentially evil. Therefore, the physical body must be beaten and starved and its very impulses are to be denied.
- (2:23) Paul points out how the practice of asceticism is meaningless and has no value at all to the believer.

**F. THE BOTTOM LINE**

Me-Centered Living	Christ-Centered Living
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Depends on my will-power</li> <li>• Focuses on my achievements</li> <li>• Practices self-denial for wrong reasons</li> <li>• Based on cultural values &amp; philosophies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Depends on _____</li> <li>• Focuses on God's _____</li> <li>• Practices _____ for God's glory</li> <li>• Based on the _____ of God's Word</li> </ul>