

COLOSSIANS

A *life* WORTH LIVING

Part 3 – Don't Settle For Substitutes Colossians 2:16-23

Pastor Mark Hartman
August 18, 2013

Colossians 2:8 “See to it that no one takes you **captive** through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.” (NASB)

To be “**taken captive**” meant to be kidnapped, to be carried away like pirates would carry away plunder.

I. A RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS IS SOMETIMES SUBSTITUTED WITH **LEGALISM**. (Colossians 2:16)

- A. Part of why Jesus came was to **complete** the Law. All of the law and those celebrations were really pointing to Him. So, after the resurrection of Jesus the early church began gathering on Sunday to worship instead of Saturday, just like we do today, to commemorate His resurrection.
- B. These early Jewish church leaders understood a truth that these kinds of rituals – these dietary laws and special day observances – were given to the Israelites to point to the **Messiah** who was coming. The Messiah had come and fulfilled the purpose of the rituals.
- C. *Hebrews 10:1* “For the Law, since it has only a **shadow** of the good things to come and not the very form of things, can never, by the same sacrifices which they offer continually year by year, make perfect those who draw near.” (NASB)
- D. *Hebrews 10:1* “The old system under the law of Moses was only a shadow, a **dim preview** of the good things to come, not the good things themselves. The sacrifices under that system were repeated again and again, year after year, but they were never able to provide perfect cleansing for those who came to worship.” (NLT)

- E. *Hebrews 7:18-19; 22, 25* “The former regulation is **set aside** because it was weak and useless ¹⁹ (for the law made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God. ²² Because of this oath, Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant. ²⁵ Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.” (NIV)
- F. There were still Jewish Christ-followers who wanted the Gentile Christ-followers to be leashed with all those rules and regulations. They were judging and criticizing these Christians for not being as “**holy**” as they were.
- G. *Colossians 2:16* “So **don’t** let anyone **condemn** you for what you eat or drink, or for not celebrating certain holy days or new moon ceremonies or Sabbaths.” (NLT)
- H. *Matthew 7:1-2* “Do not judge, or you too will be judged. ² For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” (NIV)
- I. Christians who truly want to grow spiritually and walk with God closely tend to be more susceptible to this sin of **judgmentalism** than others.
- J. The best that **legalism** can produce is a *superficial holiness and an attitude of judgmental-ism.*

II. A RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS IS SOMETIMES SUBSTITUTED WITH **MYSTICISM**.
(Colossians 2:18)

- A. The Bible teaches that there is only **one mediator** between us and God and that is Jesus. There is nothing else and no one else that we need.

1 Timothy 2:5 “For there is only one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and people. He is the man Christ Jesus.” (NLT)

- B. The Bible teaches that **angels** are not to be worshipped, only God.

Revelation 19:10 “Then I (the Apostle John) fell down at his feet (an angel) to worship him, but he said, “**No, don't worship me. For I am a servant of God, just like you and other brothers and sisters who testify of their faith in Jesus. Worship God. For the essence of prophecy is to give a clear witness for Jesus.**” (NLT)

