
How The Gospel Frees Us From Fearing Man

Week of March 19, 2017

Colossians 2:16-23

engage it

1. **Are you more appreciative of things that are given to you or things that you worked for, and why are you that way?**
2. **How does the above question apply to the Christian life? Why do you think so many Christians try to work to sustain their salvation?**

unpack it

3. **Read Colossians 2:16-19. What was Paul referring to when he mentioned festivals and new moons?**
4. **How did these function in the life of an observant Jew? What role, if any, do they have in the life of a Christian?**

5. In what ways are these a shadow of the things to come? What do these practices ultimately point to?

6. Read Galatians 5:1. How was following these false teachers causing the Colossians to submit to a bonds of slavery? Are we guilty of doing the same thing today?

7. What did Paul mean when he wrote “let no one disqualify you”?

8. The false teachers wanted the Colossians to follow their version of the law. How does thinking we can please God by keeping the law puff us up?

9. What type of language does Paul use in verse 19? What is it evocative of? How is this a helpful verse for understanding spiritual growth?

10. Read Colossians 2:20-23. Why do we have a tendency to keep a scorecard in the Christian life? How do these things cause us to submit to rules rather than Christ?

11. According to verse 22, where do these rules originate from? How do we distinguish human teaching from godly wisdom? How do we develop spiritual discernment?

12. How do legalistic rules intended to stop our sinful nature actually engage our sinful nature? Could you think of an example?

live it

13. Someone said, “If it doesn’t save you, it can’t sustain you.” In what areas of your life are you most tempted to try to “earn” your sanctification through works?

14. Legalism is the belief that we can earn God’s acceptance or love by doing certain things or keeping certain rules. How is this toxic to the Christian life? What is the antidote to legalism and how have you dealt with this in your own personal walk with Christ?