

# FREE IN CHRIST

Pastor Lucas Almeida—January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022—Central Baptist Church

## Colossians 2:16-23

ESV

[16] Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. [17] These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. [18] Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, [19] and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.

[20] If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations—[21] “Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch” [22] (referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to human precepts and teachings? [23] These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.

## INTRODUCTION

My hope today is to help my fellow believer to enjoy the freedom we have in Christ.

So, my hope today is to help my unbelieving friend realize that you are not free, and that you will only find true freedom in Christ.

## 1) RELIGIOSITY (16-17)

In Christ we have already been fully approved and accepted.

**Galatians 3: 23-26:** [23] Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. [24] So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. [25] But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, [26] for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.

We must read the Old Testament Law primarily to find and understand Christ.

We fight legalism with love.

**Galatians 5:1, 6**—[1] For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery...[6] For in Christ

*Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.*

## 2) MYSTICISM (18-19)

What matters is not necessarily how we came to know the Lord, but that we know the Lord.

Sense driven experience will give our souls the false impression of peace. But the only lasting peace that our souls can have is found in Jesus.

For Paul, Christian maturity happens corporately.

We have to be careful that we don't create burdens where the Lord has created freedom.

If we are going to reach the world that is coming to us we must major in Christ and minor in nothing.

## 3) ASCETICISM (20-23)

The Bible makes no dichotomy between pleasure and the Christian life.

- **Psalm 16:11**—*You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*
- **Psalm 133:1**—*Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!*
- **Ecclesiastes 2:24**—*There is nothing better for a person than that he should eat and drink and find enjoyment in his toil. This also, I saw, is from the hand of God...*
- **Proverbs 5:18**—*Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth...*

The world wants you to find pleasure everywhere but in God; and God wants you to know that you'll find pleasure nowhere but in him.

Christians don't display their freedom by listing all the things that they don't do, Christians display their freedom by listing all things that they can do in Christ.

**Titus 2:11–12**—[11] For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, [12] training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age...

“Grace is not simply leniency when we have sinned. Grace is the enabling gift of God not to sin. Grace is power, not just pardon.” —**John Piper**