



Colossians 2:16-23

Christ's Sufficiency in Justification & Sanctification

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Colossians 2:16-19

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.

Colossians 2:20-23

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.

Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food & drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath

Therefore: Everything Paul is getting ready to say is built upon what he has said thus far about the sufficiency of Christ:

- *v10 you have been filled in Him (made complete)*
- *v11 you were circumcised (heart), circumcision of Christ*
- *v12 having been buried with him in baptism (spiritual)*
- *v13 you who were dead in your trespasses God made alive*
- *v14 record of debt..with its legal demands.. He set aside nailing it to the cross*

If we understand all these glorious truths about our union with Christ and His sufficiency we will not be carried away by every wind of doctrine regarding our justification/sanctification

Let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food & drink, or with regard to a festival or new moon or a Sabbath:

- What's the argument being made by false teachers? Christ isn't enough, you also need to keep the law concerning food/drink/festival/new moon/Sabbath
- Why is this so dangerous? If we need to add to Christ work, we are saying his work is insufficient (**John 19:30** "*It is finished*") (**Gal 1:6-9** *another gospel*)
- Why would anyone be tempted to believe this argument?
 - There are OT laws concerning food/drink/festival/new moons/Sabbath (Ex 20, Lev 11, 23, Num 28, Ex 31).
- These people are seeking to be justified before God by the keeping of the law
 - This is true for any religion that says Jesus plus works (Catholics, JW, Mormons)
 - **Romans 3:20** *For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin*
 - **Galatians 5:3-4** *I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law. 4You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law, you have fallen away from grace*
 - **Galatians 3:24 (NASB)** *Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith.*
 - **Romans 10:4** *For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes*

Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food & drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.

- Food, drink, festivals, new moon, Sabbath are a shadow
- Christ is the substance (shadow-caster)-Paul is pointing them to Christ

Sabbath: (Ex 31) –The Sabbath was given as a rest

- **Galatians 4:10-11** *You observe days and months and seasons and years! I am afraid I may have labored over you in vain.*
- **Romans 14:5** *One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind.*
- **Hebrews 4:9-10** *So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.*
- The Sabbath was a shadow (rest) of the substance Christ, our eternal rest
 - **Matthew 11:28-30** *Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. ”)*

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

Let no one disqualify you: Individuals were going around saying “if you don’t do this, you are out”

- ***Insisting on asceticism:*** False humility (pride)
- ***Worship of angels:***
 - We must test all things by Scripture and hold fast to what is good (**1 Thess 5:21**)
 - Angels are ministering spirits from God (**Matt 4:11**), but are we supposed to worship them?
 - **Revelation 19:10** *Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, “You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God.”*
 - Ultimately the worship of angels (or anything other than God) is rejecting the truth that God has sent one sufficient mediator, Jesus Christ (**1 Tim 2:5** *For there is one God, & there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus*)
- ***Going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind:***
 - **Hebrews 1:1** *In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, 2but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe.*

and not holding fast to the Head

Where did their problems begin? When they stopped abiding in Jesus Christ (looking for something beyond)

- *from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.*
 - The whole body is nourished and grows through their abiding in Jesus Christ
 - Jesus is our life (**Colossians 3:4**)
 - Growth in Christ comes through God (and His prescribed means)
 - The moment we turn away from Christ (because we have believed he is not sufficient) we open ourselves up to so much danger

Jesus Christ is the all-sufficient Savior and we must abide in Him continually (for our justification & sanctification)