

The Pride of Legalism, Colossians 2:16-23 – June 23rd, 2019

- I want to talk with you today about legalism and how it breeds pride in the life of a believer as it damages the life of a church.
- Such was the case with the church in Colossae by virtue of those who were imposing legalistic requirements on the believers.
- The reason is they fancied themselves as being superior to those who did not observe religious festivals or dietary restrictions.

- If you were to ask me what I thought was one of the most destructive dynamics in the life of a Christian, it would be legalism.
- Sadly, legalism is alive and well today and has been repackaged in our modern day but it is still as dangerous as it was then.
- This because, legalism takes our eyes off what Jesus did for us and instead of us, and focuses on a list of do's and don'ts.

- It's for this reason that the Apostle Paul says we no longer submit to the rules of "do not handle, do not taste, and do not touch."
- The reason being is that they were only shadows of the things that were to come and the reality is only found in Jesus Christ.
- This is why it is that many today are confused when it comes to worshipping on the first day of the week instead of Saturday.

- For those who are interested in a more in depth study of this, our website has the archived teaching on this in Exodus 20:8-11.
- For the purposes of our study today, let me simply say that Jesus fulfills the Sabbath such that we have rest from our works.
- In other words, we rest knowing that we don't have to do any work for our salvation. We enter Sabbath-rest because of Christ.

Hebrews 4:9-11 - 9 There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; 10 for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his. 11 Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following their example of disobedience.

Romans 14:5-6 - 5 One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. 6 Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God.

- Here's the bottom line, instead of our works or deeds of righteousness being a "got to," they, under grace become a "get to."
- Perhaps better said, legalism says I have to have works under the law, whereas faith says I want to have works under grace.

James 2:14-24 - 14 What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? 17 Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. 18 But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. 19 You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! 20 But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? 22 Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? 23 And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God. 24 You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.