

BIG IDEA: Colossians 2:16-23

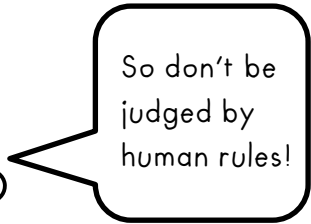
You are free in Christ – don't be judged by human rules.

Start with Jesus
Stick with Jesus
COLOSSIANS

Here Paul gives us insight into the sort of 'hollow and deceptive philosophies' or false ideas (from 2v8) the Colossians were facing.

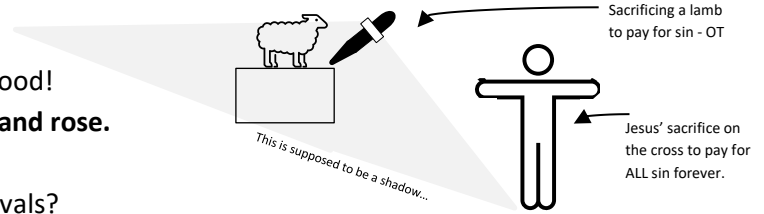
The Colossians were being judged by the false teachers (who said they needed more than Jesus) for not following their rules.

Paul shows them why these false ideas are wrong.



Old Testament festivals – v16-17

Old Testament festivals were God-given and good!
But **they were for the time before Jesus died and rose.**



1. What does Paul call the Old Testament festivals? _____
2. What are they a shadow of? _____

Another way to think of it is that the OT festivals were **signposts** to Jesus. Once Jesus is there, we don't need the signposts!

Visions of angels – v18-19

3. How would you describe a person who 'delights in false humility' and is 'puffed up' in your own words? _____
4. Why are they 'puffed up'? What have they seen? _____
5. Why does Paul say the Colossians shouldn't listen to these people? (v19) Think - who is the head? _____



God can speak to people in visions even today. He can do whatever he wants! But his **usual** way of communicating with us is through his word, the Bible. The Bible is special because it's inspired by the Holy Spirit - God himself. So when a Christian, who is filled with the Holy Spirit, reads it, they are hearing from God. God actually speaks through the Bible! The Bible isn't second-class to visions.

Human rules – v20-23

6. What don't the Colossians belong to any more? Why? (v20)
They don't belong to the w_____ because they d_____ with C_____ .
So they don't need to obey rules that people invent to make themselves morally good.
7. What will happen to the things that these rules are about? (v22) They'll p_____ .
8. These rules can appear to have w_____. But they're often h_____ and they don't have any v_____ in stopping sin completely. (All the missing words are in v23 in this order.)

But sometimes people do seem to follow human rules. What's that about?!
We're free to live, but we're not free to sin. For example, someone might make a rule for themselves not to be in a particular WhatsApp group chat because they find it tempting to join in with gossip when in that group. But that 'rule' doesn't apply to every Christian and it doesn't mean that WhatsApp's completely bad. If we had a rule at Highfields that no one should be in a WhatsApp group at all, that would be a rule that we've just made up and it would have no value in making us less sinful – it would be the sort of rule that Paul is warning against in verses 20-23. It would be bad. **No rule will ever make us sin free – only Jesus can do that.**

The big thing Paul wants us to remember is (v16) "do not let anyone judge you".
1. Have you ever felt judged by someone because you didn't follow rules they said were Christian?
2. Can you think why people like to have rules?
3. Why can't visions or rules make us 'better' Christians?

sermon notes

Passage:

Date:

Preacher:

The main headings:

Doodles



New ideas or things
I learn.

Questions I want to be
answered as I listen.

✝ Why is Jesus so important?

What questions do you have?

What's the main application?

Why do we not need rules?

After the service What do you want to share with your family from what you've heard?

Colossians 2:16-23

f d y j c a c n t p y b c x l
d i y q l b p h o d g i h u a
s h a d o w r p r o l r f s c
p u d e f f u p e i m w z p k
d r i n k y l m m a s w k t v
p y y q p z e w y y r t e f a
t m p t f i s y f y t a e n l
c o n n e c t i o n h s n i u
v d t a e i l s e h t a p c e
m s o j l a u g r i a n t r e
u i p a u b d f v n b g x x h
z w e q m u l a a f b e u a d
t r s i j e l m n l a l r k x
n i t h s i r e p d s s w b r
d b z e b r b k h r h e j b b

judge

eat

drink

festival

New Moon

Sabbath

shadow

reality

Christ

false

angels

disqualify

puffed up

connection

submit

rules

perish

appearance

wisdom

harsh

lack value