

Sunday, January 17, 2021—Colossians 2:16-17

Introduction

- This morning we are going to resume our study through the book of Colossians. Over the past four weeks I preached on the following topics.
 - 12/20—The Carols of Christmas
 - 12/27—The Humanity of Christ
 - 1/3—Nationalism & Globalism
 - 1/10—State of the Assembly Address
- When we were last in our Colossians study, we studied verse 15 where we observed the triumph of Christ over principalities and powers by the cross.
 - Review the context of verses 9-15
- This morning we want to pick things up at verse 16.

Colossians 2:16

- **Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:**
- In verse 16, Paul begins to apply the previous section on the rich provisions provided through Christ to the doctrinal problem facing the Colossians on account of the Gnostic error.
- Colossians 2:14—established that “the handwriting of ordinances” i.e., the Mosaic Law had been blotted out and taken out of the way through the cross.
- Colossians 2:16—therefore the Colossians should not allow themselves to be judged with respect to these things. When the Gnostics came along and tried to “judge” the Colossians on the basis of what they eat and drink, or whether they observe certain feasts, new moons, or sabbath days, the Colossians are to turn a deaf ear to them.
 - Leviticus 11:2-47; Deut. 14:3-29—outline what Israel could and could not eat.
 - Leviticus 23:1-44—outlines all the feasts of Jehovah given to the nation of Israel.
 - Numbers 10:10, 28:11; Nehemiah. 10:33; Psalms. 81:3; Isaiah. 1:13-14—deal with the new moons.

- Exodus 20:8—the keeping of the Sabbath was a very important part of the Law of Moses as it was the fourth of the ten commandments.
- Colossians 2:16—all of these things had their place in time past for Israel under the Law. Now because of the cross work of Christ believers today are no longer under the Law.
 - Colossians 2:14
 - Romans 6:14
 - Romans 14:17
- Colossians 2:16—the Colossians and by extension us are not to let any man “judge” us with respect to these things.

Colossians 2:17

- **Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.**
- All of the things mentioned in verse 16 are a mere “shadow of things to come.”
- The English word “shadow” possess many different meanings, according to Noah Webster’s *American Dictionary of the English Language*. Consider definition number 10.
 - “An imperfect and faint representation; opposed to substance.”
 - Hebrews 10:1
- Matthew 5:18—no detail of the law is going to go unfulfilled by Jesus Christ. Many of the types and shadows found in Israel law await a future fulfillment.
- Colossians 2:17—having stated that the things of the Law mentioned in verse 16 possess a shadowy significance for the future, Paul states, “but the body is of Christ.” Note the contrast, “but.” Instead of focusing on the shadowy things belonging to Israel’s program Paul seeks to focus their attention on the body of Christ of which Christ is the head.
- As members of the body of Christ we ought not be playing around in the shadows thinking we are spiritual Israel. We need to be focused on Jesus Christ our head and who we are in him.
- Identify theft is the biggest problem facing the body of Christ.