

COLOSSIANS: JESUS+ _____

PAUL'S LETTER TO THE CHURCH OF COLOSSE

Part 6: What Comes First?

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April 6 & 7, 2013

So far in the book of Colossians:

Jesus is supreme
Jesus is enough
Jesus is triumphant
Jesus plus nothing

Because we need nothing but Jesus:

Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day.¹⁷ These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.¹⁸ Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you. Such a person also goes into great detail about what they have seen; they are puffed up with idle notions by their unspiritual mind.¹⁹ They have lost connection with the head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow. – *Colossians 2:16-19*

With good intentions, people focus on...

Behavior before belief

Obligation before declaration

A message that says, “You need to clean up your act.”

²⁰ Since you died with Christ to the elemental spiritual forces of this world, why, as though you still belonged to the world, do you submit to its rules: ²¹ “Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!”? ²² These rules, which have to do with things that are all destined to perish with use, are based on merely human commands and teachings. ²³ Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence. – *Colossians 2:20-23*

The traditional approach of religion:

Behave ⇒ Believe ⇒ Belong

The relational approach of Jesus:

Belong ⇒ Believe ⇒ Behave

How do I make decisions about how to live?

“Everything is permissible” — but not everything is beneficial. “Everything is permissible” — but not everything is constructive. Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others. – *1 Corinthians 10:23-24*

Is it really permissible?

Is it beneficial?

Is it wise?

Is it selfish?

So, whether you eat, or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.
– *1 Corinthians 10:31*

The Ultimate Question: Does it glorify God?

Next Steps

BAPTISM: Classes are this weekend; see gold insert in today's program for details.

Small Group Questions

- 1) What was the highlight of your Easter season?
- 2) How did you deal with rules as a child?
- 3) In your experience, have you seen legalism steal the joy of people who claim to know Jesus? How so?
- 4) How does your freedom in Christ affect your behavior?
- 5) What is the biggest decision you are making right now? Run that decision through the questions listed in the outline. What is the answer now?
- 6) How can we pray for you today?

OUR MISSION | To create an authentic Christian community that effectively reaches out to unchurched people in love, acceptance and forgiveness so that they may experience the joy of salvation and a purposeful life of discipleship.