

Colossians 2:16-23 – Let No One!

I. Judge You: 16-17

To “Judge” here is to decide as referee (standard) against someone.

The Old Testament law had certain provisions that are done away with in Jesus, regarding such things as **food** and **sabbaths**. It isn't that those laws were *bad*, simply that they were **a shadow/draft of things to come**. Once the **substance/reality** – Jesus Christ – has come, we don't need the **shadow/draft** any more. Days and foods, as observed under the Mosaic Law, are not binding upon New Covenant people, they hold not spiritual significance.

***1 Timothy 4:4-5** - For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving; for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer*

Christians are therefore free to keep a kosher diet or to observe the sabbath if they please. There is nothing wrong with those things. However, they cannot think that eating kosher or sabbath observance makes them any closer to God, and they cannot **judge** another brother or sister who does not observe such laws.

II. Cheat You: 18-23

To “cheat” here is to defraud one of their prize of victory.

***1 Corinthians 3:8** - Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own **reward** according to his own labor.*

***2 John 1:8** - Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but that we may receive a full **reward**.*

***Revelation 22:12** - “And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.*

i. False humility

They pretend to be humble, hypocritical...

ii. Worship of angels/idols

The **worship of angels** or other idols do not make anyone more spiritual.

iii. Vainly puffed up

They “swell” like they’re better and holier than others.

iv. Not holding fast to the Head

When these strange, mystical movements arise, loyalty is to men, not Christ, who’s the Head of the Church. The Bible requires us to be focused and loyal to Christ.

v. Commandments of men

Legalists only focus on external matters; food, clothing, days of the week, outlook...

Matthew 15:17-20 - *“Do you not yet understand that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and is eliminated? “But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. “For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. “These are the things which defile a man, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man.”*

Matthew 23:27-28 - *“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness. “Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.*

vi. Self-imposed religion

The regulations are created and enforced by men, to domineer others. All such legalistic rules may have an **appearance** of wisdom, but they have no real value.

III. Hold fast

2 Timothy 1:13 - *Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.*

1Thessalonians 5:21 - *Test all things; **hold fast** what is good.*

Revelation 3:11 - *“Behold, I am coming quickly! **Hold fast** what you have, that no one may take your crown.*