

**Christ Our Victor
Colossians 2:16-23**

I. Emptiness of Human Philosophy – 2:8

1. "Beware" a clear & present danger – 8
"See to it" be on guard
You can be taken "captive"
2. Human philosophy
It is "vain" empty, devoid of truth
note Ecclesiastes
It is "deceitful" – based upon lies
"According to human tradition"
What man thinks
"According to elemental spirits of the world"
Term speaks of what is basic to the world's system.
3. Not according to Christ
Christ is the full revelation of all that God is
He is truth as is all of God's revelation
Human thinking must be measured in the light of Christ - 2 Corinthians 10:5

II. Christ - Fulfilled the Law – 2:16-17

1. Don't seek righteousness by the law
Proven that we cannot keep the law
Christ came to completely fulfill the law
Matthew 5:17-20
2. Don't let others judge you – 16
In regard to observance of the law
3. God sees us in Christ - 17
He has declared us righteous in Christ
2 Cor. 5:21; Rom. 8:1
We have died to the law – Rom. 7:4
We are now married to Christ – bearing fruit to God
3. Ceremonial law was a shadow – 17
Moral law (God's standard) fulfilled in Christ
We are made the righteousness of God in Christ
2 Corinthians 5:21
Ceremonial law is seen here in verse 16-17
Dietary laws, festivals, new moon, sabbath
These all were a shadow of things to come
All pointed ahead to the Messiah
Christ is the substance – reality with God
Why hold to a shadow when you have reality
4. Sabbath is also in Ten Commandments
Exodus 20:8-11 – celebrates work of creation
Take rest in God's finished work
This is also a shadow of reality in Christ
Hebrews 4 focuses on this fulfillment (Heb. 4:9-11)
Our Sabbath is to rest in finished work of Christ's redemption

III. Mysticism Fails – Christ is Head – 2:18-19

1. Some seek God with mysticism
2. Living with asceticism & worship of angels
Think this will bring them closer to God
3. Let no one disqualify you – 18
Because you lack asceticism
And you do not worship angels
Going on in detail about visions
With pride in spiritual experiences
5. Worship of angels is forbidden
Exodus 20:3-4 – worship only God
God's angels forbid worship – Rev. 22:8-9
6. Revelation now is in Christ
Hebrews 1:1-3 – He is our Head
Truth is in Christ
And what He has revealed to His apostles
7. True spiritual growth is in Christ - 19
It comes in conjunction with His body
"It is nourished and knit together
Through its joints and ligaments"
Growth is "growth that is from God"
Ephesians 4:7-16

IV. Asceticism Fails in Spiritual Growth – 2:20-23

1. Asceticism focuses on self-improvement – 20
World's way of change
We are no longer part of world's system
Why do we think change comes that way
Self denial, submitting to human means
2. Appears to be wisdom – 23
This is big in self-made religion
Practice asceticism & severity to the body
3. But no value in dealing with sin – 23
This means cannot stop indulgence of the flesh
Answer will come in Colossians 3