



Week 6: No Rules, Just Righteous!

February 19th 2023

† The consequence of hope!

† Dead to being dead
Colossians 2:20

† No rules?
Colossians 2:21

† Short term solutions to temporary problems
Colossians 2:22

† Why legalism isn't just ineffective, it is dangerous
Colossians 2:23

Questions for reflection and discussion

- In verse 20 Paul says to the believer “you died with Christ.” What does this mean, and what changed for us when this happened?
- What are the “elemental spiritual forces of this world” (NASB ‘elementary principles of the world’) that no longer have power over us?
- Still in verse 20, in what ways are we tempted to ‘submit’ to the rules and demands of the ‘old principles and spiritual forces’ of the world? What is an example of this in your own life?
- Verse 21 lists the legalism of the Mosaic Law being pushed upon the Colossians. What are examples of legalistic thinking within the church today? Within your own life?
- Read verse 22. How does legalism tend to focus on ‘temporary’ and surface issues? How does a legalistic approach to God rely more on ‘mere human commands’ than the deeper teaching of scripture?
- Pastor Ethan stated that one very common motivator of legalism is fear. Have you seen this at work? How? What is the antidote to fear-based legalism?
- Verse 23- what are ways legalistic thinking today is justified?
- Paul concludes that legalism lacks any value/power to truly change our hearts. Why is this? Why is this dangerous, not just pointless?

Next Sunday: Colossians Part 4: Alive in Christ! Week 1: Setting your mind (Colossians 3:1-4)

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