

Colossians 2:13-23

Ephesians 1:22, 23 *“And God has placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.”*

- A. *“You were dead in sin and in the uncircumcision of your heart” (2:13)*
- B. *“He made us alive in Christ” (2:13)*
- C. *“Having cancelled the charge of legal indebtedness which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away nailing it to the cross.” (2:14)*

1. DO NOT LET ANYONE JUDGE YOU...(First of two Negative Commands)

Colossians 2:13 *“Do not let anyone judge you (Better: pass judgement on you) by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a new Moon celebration or a Sabbath Day.”*

JB Phillips, *“This is not just a matter of someone criticizing them, or deciding for them, or taking them to task. It is a matter of excluding them or excommunicating them from the family of God based on the law.”*

- a. By what you eat or drink...kosher laws of the Old Testament

Romans 14:3 Paul said, *“The one who eats everything must not treat in contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them.”*

1 Corinthians 8:1 *“Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that ‘We possess knowledge.’ But knowledge puffs up while love builds up.”*

- b. Regard to religious festivals...Jewish holidays

F.F. Bruce *“The observance of the sacred calendar, like the observance of the Levitical food laws, was obligatory on Jews. But Christians are free from obligations of this kind.”*

- c. The Sabbath day

Problem: There were two calendar years in the First Century

1. Qumram Community Calendar of the Book of Jubilees is a 360 day solar calendar.
2. Lunar Calendar: 354 day calendar accepted by the Pharisees and Sadducees.

Church Historian, Socrates, "Since now one can produce a written command as an authority it is evident that the apostles left each one to their own free will in the matter in order that each might do good neither by fear or compulsion."

- d. These are a SHADOW OF THINGS TO COME

1 Colossians 2:17 *"These are a shadow of things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ."*

2. Second Negative Warning

Colossians 2:18, 19 *"Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you. Such a person goes into great detail about what they have seen; they are puffed up with idle notions, by their unspiritual mind. 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."*

- a. Delights in false humility
- b. Worship of angels

Historically there are two lines of thought:

- Greek and Roman culture: "Aggelos" (messenger)
- Post-Jesus Gnosticism

Note: Colossians 2:18, Paul says they like to hold it over people about what they have seen or know, and *"They are puffed up with idle notions and unspiritual mind."*

3. Stay CONNECTED

Note what Paul says about them:

Colossians 2:19-21 *"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. 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: 'Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!'"*

- a. Lost connection with the Head, Jesus Christ
- b. They have lost connection with the Body
- c. We support one another and we grow together