



Colossians 2:16-23

Christ is the Substance

You have freedom in Christ (2:16-17)

- Reject Legalism (16)

- “Let no one pass judgment on you”

- Legalism says real Christianity is made up of a list of “dos” and “don’ts”

- Rules based in O.T. Law (2:16)

- Rules based in “human tradition” adding to the O.T. Law (2:8)

You have freedom in Christ (2:16-17)

- 3 areas in which the Jewish Christians were judging each other
 - “questions of food and drink”
 - Matt. 15:10-11, 17-19; 1Cor. 8:8;
 - Jesus is the Bread of Life (Jn. 6:35) & Living Water (Jn. 7:37)
 - “regard to festival or new moon”
 - Is. 1:13; Gal. 3:24-4:11; Gal. 5:4
 - Jesus is the embodiment of the Feast Days
 - “Sabbath”
 - Heb. 4:1-6
 - Jesus is our Sabbath Rest

You have freedom in Christ (2:16-17)

- The Law was a shadow
 - “these are a shadow of things to come”
 - Heb. 10:1
- Embrace your freedom in Christ (17)
 - “The substance belongs to Christ”
 - Christ fulfilled the Law for you

You are qualified in Christ (2:18-19)

- Reject Spiritualism
 - Asceticism can “disqualify” you (make you unworthy of a reward)
 - Worship of angels (worship of anything or anyone other than Christ)
 - Going on in detail about visions (emphasis on religious experiences)
- Trust in Christ the Head
 - Hold fast to the Head who gives nourishment and growth in the Christian life
- Trust in the Sufficiency of Scripture
 - 2Tim. 3:16-17

In Christ you have power over the flesh (2:20-23)

- You can't overcome the flesh through the flesh
 - "...are of no value in stopping indulgence to the flesh"
(vs. 23)
- Victory comes through faith
 - Heb. 11:6
- Victory comes through being "with [in] Christ" (vs. 20)
 - 1Cor. 15:57
- Victory comes through the Spirit
 - Gal. 5:16-17