

Shadow vs. Substance: Focusing on the Facts of Faith

Colossians 2:16-17

BGT ¹⁶ Μὴ οὖν τις ὑμᾶς κρινέτω ἐν βρώσει καὶ ἐν πόσει ἢ ἐν μέρει ἑορτῆς ἢ νεομηνίας ἢ σαββάτων· ¹⁷ ἃ ἔστιν σκιά τῶν μελλόντων, τὸ δὲ σῶμα τοῦ Χριστοῦ.

NKJ ¹⁶ So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, ¹⁷ which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.

I. Review

A. The Colossians were _____ in Christ who were known for their love for the _____ (1:4)

B. Paul's prayer was that the Colossians would become fully _____

1. *in what they _____ (1:9 - "that you may be filled with the knowledge of the will of God in all wisdom and spiritual understanding" and*
2. *in how they _____ (1:10-12)*
 - a. *in their _____ to live ("that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him:")*
 - b. *in their _____ ("being fruitful in every good work")*
 - c. *in their _____ of God (increasing in the [experiential] knowledge of God")*
 - d. *in their _____ to live ("strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power")*
 - e. *in their _____ to live ("for all patience and longsuffering with joy")*
 - f. *in their _____ to God ("giving thanks to the Father")*

C. Paul's focus was Christ as _____ (1:14), _____ (1:15-17), _____ of the Church (1:18)

D. Paul's practice was to preach, _____ and _____ every person (1:28)

E. Paul's purpose was that he might "present _____ man _____ [fully mature] in Christ" (1:28)

1. *Which involves being _____, _____, and _____ in God's sight (1:22)*
2. *Which requires (1:23)*
 - a. *continuing in the _____*
 - b. *being _____ and _____, and*
 - c. *not being moved away from the _____ of the Gospel*

F. Paul's warning was

1. *To prevent them from being _____ with persuasive words (2:4)*
2. *To prevent them from being _____ through philosophy, empty deceit & the world's principles (2:8)*
3. *To prevent them from losing their understanding that their _____ and _____ are complete in Christ (2:8-15)*

II. Paul's Transition – "so" [οὖν / oun = "therefore"] – Paul _____ on what he has said before

III. Paul's Instruction (or Application) – "Let no one judge you"

Let no one judge you (Μὴ οὖν τις ὑμᾶς κρινέτω)

A. How can you keep someone from judging you? (you can't)

B. Meaning – "Do not let people take you to task, require you to live by"

C. _____ – two parts

1. *being _____ or becoming _____*
2. *by conforming to _____ - _____ list of _____ expectations*

D. Dangers:

- _____ and _____ the Old Testament (or other standard)
- _____ the completeness of salvation (including sanctification) in Christ
- _____, "because inwardly rebellious and disobedient Christians, or even nonChristians, can conform to a set of external performance standards or rituals." (MacArthur, *Colossians*)

IV. Paul's List (Delineation)

in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or Sabbaths
(ἐν βρώσει καὶ ἐν πόσει ἢ ἐν μέρει ἑορτῆς ἢ νεομηνίας ἢ σαββάτων)

A. In your failure to consume a specific _____

1. *What you* _____
2. *What you* _____

Rom 14:17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Examples:

Some false cults, such as Spiritism, insist on their members abstaining from meats. For centuries Roman Catholics were not supposed to eat meat on Friday. Many churches require abstinence from certain foods during Lent. Others, like the Mormons, say that a person cannot be a member in good standing if he drinks tea or coffee. Still others, notably the Seventh Day Adventists, insist that a person must keep the Sabbath in order to please God. The Christian is not under such ordinances. (MacDonald, W., & Farstad, A. *Believer's Bible Commentary : Old and New Testaments* (Col 2:16)

This can even be a _____ ploy to deceive and distract (see 1 Tim 4:1-5)

B. In your failure to observe special _____ (each required sacrifices, rest, tasks, etc.)

1. *a feast day (annual events)*
2. *a new moon (monthly events)*
3. *Sabbaths (weekly events) [MacArthur lists 10 reasons why Christians do not observe the Sabbath.*

C. See further Matthew 15:1-20; Romans 14; Gal 4-5

V. Paul's Explanation

which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.
ἃ ἔστιν σκιὰ τῶν μελλόντων, τὸ δὲ σῶμα τοῦ Χριστοῦ.

A. Those practices were only a _____ of what was to come

1. *A shadow is near image of the real thing*

Heb 10:1 For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, *and* not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect. (cf Heb 8:5)

B. They were fully _____ in Christ (Col 1:13-22 ; 2:6-15)

C. Why focus on the shadow when the Reality is present? (wife's picture, ultrasound, baseball card)

VI. Application

A. What is meant by legalism? (What are we warned to avoid?)

1. *Legalism is seeking to be _____ or become _____ (sanctified) by keeping external rules.*
"Christ is the end of the law to everyone who believes" (Rom 10:4)
2. *Legalism deals with misusing rules or rites to obtain a better _____ before God, either in salvation (having our sins forgiven) or sanctification (becoming more holy).*

B. What is NOT meant by legalism?

1. *Legalism does not disregard what is clearly prohibited or clearly prudent (wise)*
2. *Legalism does not disregard*
 - a. The _____ of God ("be holy for I am holy")
 - b. The _____ of God (Matt 28:20)
 - c. The _____ and _____ of our roles and responsibilities
 - d. The _____ by the Spirit (Eph 5:18)
 - e. The _____ of others (e.g. Heb 10:24-25, where concern for others, not the day, is the focus of gathering together)
 - f. The _____ of institutional rules (home, church, work, government)
 - g. The _____, whether accurately prohibitive or not (Rom 14)

C. What and/or Who is our focus for salvation and sanctification?