



The Preeminence of Christ

Colossians



Warnings Against and Responses to

“False Doctrines of Men”

Col. 2:16-23

January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021

# “False Doctrines of Men”

## **False Doctrine 1 - Legalism (v. 16 and 17)**

1. Food (Lev. 11)
2. Drink (Lev. 10:9; Num. 6:3)
3. Festivals (Lev. 23)
4. New Moon (Num. 10:10; 28:11)
5. Sabbath (Ex. 20)

# “False Doctrines of Men”

## **What is Legalism?**

“It is to measure your own or someone else’s spirituality by the ability to keep **man-made** rules.”

# “False Doctrines of Men”

1. Warning Against Legalism

## **2. Responding to Legalism**

1. We have Christ !
2. Christ is the Lord of Sabbath !

# “False Doctrines of Men”

## False Doctrine 2 - Mysticism

### V. 18

- [NASB95](#) Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on **visions he has seen**, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind,
- [NKJV](#) Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which **he has not seen**, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,
- [NET](#) Let no one who delights in humility and the worship of angels pass judgment on you. That person goes on at great lengths about what he has **supposedly seen**, but he is puffed up with empty notions by his fleshly mind.

# “False Doctrines of Men”

## **False Doctrine 2 - Mysticism (v. 18 and 19)**

1. Defrauding
2. Self-Abasement
3. Worshipper of Angels
4. Visions
5. Puffed up with empty notions

# “False Doctrines of Men”

## What is Mysticism?

“Religious practices or teaching that are oriented toward gaining an **experience** of direct union with God or any ultimate reality. The goal of mysticism is **spiritual access** to the divine.”

Douglas Mangum, [\*The Lexham Glossary of Theology\*](#) (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2014).



# “False Doctrines of Men”

1. Warning Against Mysticism

## **2. Responding to Mysticism**

1. Reject Mysticism

1. They are not self-authenticating
2. They are not objective
3. They are not testable
4. They are self-canceling
5. They can be misinterpreted

# “False Doctrines of Men”

1. Warning Against Mysticism

## **2. Responding to Mysticism**

1. Reject Mysticism

2. Responding to Mysticism

1. Remember that we are the body and Christ is the head

2. Remember that God is the one who gives the growth

3. God has spoken to us

# “False Doctrines of Men”

## **False Doctrine 3 - Asceticism (v. 20-23)**

“Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!”

# “False Doctrines of Men”

## **What is Asceticism?**

“The practice of denying bodily pleasures or inflicting suffering on the body in an attempt to attain greater spirituality.”

Douglas Mangum, [\*The Lexham Glossary of Theology\*](#) (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2014).

# “False Doctrines of Men”

1. Warning Against Asceticism

## **2. Responding to Asceticism**

1. Remember that we have died with Christ
2. Remember that these things are temporary

# “False Doctrines of Men”

## 1. Legalism

1. We have Christ !
2. Christ is the Lord of Sabbath !

## 2. Mysticism

1. Remember that we are the body and Christ is the head.
2. Remember that God is the one who gives the growth.
3. God has spoken to us.

## 3. Asceticism

1. Remember that we have died with Christ.
2. Remember that these things are temporary

# Responding to the Text

1. Remember that Scripture is Objective Truth (2 Tim. 3:16-17; Heb. 4:12)
2. Remind yourself and meditate on the fact that Christ is the only sure foundation (1 Cor. 3:11)

# Group Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever been judged in the way Colossians 2:16-23 describes? What was it over? How did you respond then? Would you respond any differently today?
2. In what ways does 'false humility' within the church disconnect that person from Christ, the head of the church?
3. Within our own lives and church, how can we always make sure we don't compromise on the fact that 'Jesus is the only mediator and that he alone is sufficient?'
4. Ultimately our lives in Christ are not simply about a set of "do" and "do not" rules. What is the real, impacting message from this passage about being in Christ?