**Colossians: the Supremacy of Christ:**

**“The Danger of Spiritual Intimidation”**

**2:16-23**

1. **Legalism. (vv. 16-17)**

**Legalism is the religion of human achievement.**

**A believer is FREE in Christ. He is free from the bondage of the strict requirements of the law.**

**‘**Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.’(Rom. 10:4)”

***We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale of, and use of, intoxicating drinks as a beverage; to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.***

1. **The Sabbath was the sign of Israel of the Old Covenant (Ex. 31:16-17; Neh. 9:14; Ezek. 20:12).**
2. **The NT nowhere commands Christians to observe the Sabbath.**
3. **There is no hint in the OT that God ever expected the Gentiles nations to observe the Sabbath, nor are they ever condemned for not doing so.**
4. **There is no evidence of anyone’s keeping the Sabbath before the time of Moses, nor are there any commands to keep the Sabbath before the giving of the law at Mount Sinai.**
5. **The Jewish wave sheaf offering, held on the first day of the week, was observed in anticipation of Christ’s resurrection (I Cor. 15: 23).**
6. **The feast of tabernacles anticipated the dawning of a new and better day, the day of grace. It was held on the 1st and 8th days of the week.**
7. **The Jerusalem Council did not impose Sabbath keeping on the Gentile believers (Acts 15).**
8. **Pentecost, the day of the empowerment of the church for service to Christ, took place on the first day of the week.**
9. **Paul warned the Gentiles about many different sins on his epistles, but never about breaking the Sabbath.**
10. **Paul rebuked the Galatians for thinking God expected them to observe special days (including the Sabbath) (Gal. 4:10-11).**
11. **Paul taught that keeping the Sabbath was a matter of Christian liberty (Rom. 14:5).**
12. **The early church fathers, from Ignatius to Augustine, taught that the OT Sabbath had been abolished and that the first day of the week (Sunday) was the day when Christians should meet for worship. That disproves the claim that Sunday worship was not instituted until the 4th century.**
13. **God’s Word emphasizes that it was on the first day of the week that Christ rose from the grave and appeared to Mary and other women and then His disciples.**
14. **The only record of an early church service in the NT is in Acts 20:27 and they met on Sunday, the first day of the week.**
15. **The church was commanded to bring their tithes and offerings into the church “on the first day of the week.” (I Cor. 16:2)**
16. **Mysticism. (vv. 18-19)**

**Mysticism believed that true spirituality is arrived at through internal means like feelings, intuition and inner light that was somehow already possessed by all men.**

**The Word is Christ. It reveals to us all that He is and that He is sufficient for all of our needs.**

**Matt. 4:10,**

“Jesus said to him, ‘Away with you, Satan! For it is written, *You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.*' "

“intruding” **means to search into, to investigate, to scrutinize minutely.**

**Error cannot flourish where sound doctrine holds sway.**

**Doctrine is the foundation of all practice and the interpreter of our experience.**

“hold fast” **means to get a firm unshakeable grip.**

“nourished” **speaks of abundance.**

1. **Asceticism. (vv. 20-23)**

**An ascetic is one who lives a life of rigorous self-denial.**

**The death of the believer with Christ is a death to his old relations, to sin, the law, guilt and the world.**

**God made all things for us to enjoy, as long as those things do not have the potential to lead us away from representing Christ well or cause others to stumble in our actions.**

**Matt. 6:16-18,**

"Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. 17 But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, 18 so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.”