

*Staying Free in the Reality of Christ*  
*Colossians 2:16-23*

The false teachers had created a fleshly religion stemming from the “carnal mind” (v. 18), but the true believers have “died with Christ,” both to this world and to the things of this world—including the pseudo-religion of these heretics.

Specifically, Christians have died to “the elemental spirits of the world” (2:8), the very demonic powers that Christ disarmed and triumphed over (v. 15). So the beings to which the Colossians were subjecting themselves were the implacable enemies, both of themselves and of God. Yet in Christ the saints have been set free from these evil powers, and Christ has given his followers authority over these demonic spirits (Mark 3:15, 6:7). This does not mean that the forces of darkness have no weapons and cower before us. They still seek to “sift [us] as wheat” (Luke 22:31) and “devour” us like lions (1 Pet 5:8), but they can do so only by deceiving us (Rev 12:9; 20:3). Satan and the fallen angels cannot overpower us. Osborne

- I. If Jesus is the Word (Jn. 1:1), and we know that he is, then we have no business embracing any teaching that adds to or takes away from his truth. Our primary concern, as true followers of Jesus Christ, is to remain true to God’s Word despite pressure to conform to beliefs and practices that are clearly a distortion of the reality of Christ.

Col. 2:16-19

1 Cor. 2:13-15

- A. A powerful tactic that Satan uses to deceive believers into accepting false teaching about the reality of Christ and our standing before him is intimidation. He will use legalism, sensationalism and Judgmentalism to convince those who are weak in their faith to embrace practices and philosophies in their worship of God that are contrary to truth of God’s Word.

Col. 2:16-17

2 Chron. 33:1-9

**Gal. 5:1** *It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by the yoke of slavery.*

- B.** Satan's motive in bringing false teaching into the church is to rob or cheat us from living fully the faith and love that spring from that hope that is stored up in heaven for us (Col. 1:1:4-5). We must never let him weaken our grasp of living under the headship of Jesus Christ, no matter how right his ways may seem. It makes no sense to embrace any teaching, or puffed up notion, or deceptive philosophy that would cause us to lose connection with the reality of Jesus.

Col. 2:18-19

1 Tim 2:5

Matt 4:10

- II.** Jesus has made it very clear to us that we alone are responsible for our spiritual well-being. We died on that cross with Jesus when we came to trust in him as our Lord and Savior. Therefore we died to ourselves, which means that we died to the sensual indulgences of the flesh and to the ways of this evil world system. We are to make sure that the world, its philosophy, its wisdom, and its ways do not creep in and define us. We are to make sure that Jesus is the only one whom we handle, taste and touch.

Col. 2:20-23

Co. 2:8

1 Cor. 1:30

***Gal. 2:20-21*** *I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!*