

Don't Be Judged, Taken, or Fooled

050301-5

Hello! This is Dorothy -

Do you sense fear and bondage? Would you say that in your life there is absolutely no hope in sight? Well, do rejoice, for Jesus has made it possible for you to be free! Speaking of our Lord Jesus Christ, we read in **Colossians 2:15** -

15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it. The Lordship of Christ is the center of Christianity. Christ is the Lord of every power and every authority, the Conqueror of all cosmic powers, and the Source of the Christian's new life. As new born-again Christians, remember this: we have died; we have been buried; we have been raised from the dead as through faith God did precisely this with His Son. We are totally new. As *circumcision* means new life, so *baptism* symbolizes the figure of death and rebirth and the experience of dying with Christ, dying to the old man. *Putting on the new* makes the Christian literally alive. Therefore, because of who you are, you cannot be like anybody else who is not saved; you cannot fit into the general flow of what is going on outside.

We are being told in **Colossians 2, verse 16 and 18**, three *don'ts* :
Don't be judged. Don't be taken. Don't be fooled.

Don't be judged by the shadows of things to come, which are the rituals of the law, but they are just pictures pointing to Christ. You know, a person might want to visit your home. They might send their photo to give you some idea what they look like. But after the visitors arrive, you don't go on looking at the photo; you look at the real persons before you. And so for us, now that Christ has come, we no longer need pictures. Therefore, don't be judged by these other things.

Don't be taken by those with a pretense of wisdom, vainly puffed up by their fleshy mind: a lot of show and no substance.

Don't be fooled by those who will not hold the Head. Jesus Christ is our life and spiritual growth comes from Him. If a person does not have Christ as the center, don't be fooled.

In **Verses 20, 22 and 23** -

20 **Wherefore, if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world , why, as though living in the world, are you subject to ordinances,**

22 **Which all are to perish with the using; after the commandments and doctrines of men?**

23 **Which things have indeed a show of wisdom in will worship and humility, and neglecting of the body . . . - we are surrounded by people who go through this pretense of putting on something, as if somehow they are going to work their way to God -**

. . . **not in any honor.** . . . - *not of any value* - . . . **to the satisfying of the flesh.**- *they go through all this.* You know, it is very interesting. That little word that we are . . . ***dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world.*** That word, ***rudiments***, in the RSV Bible, states *elemental spirits*. “What is that?” you say. It is identified with demonic powers. Interesting, isn’t it? We get caught up by worshiping and following, and all the time we are being identified with demonic powers, if we are not rooted in Christ. These demonic powers have been delegated an authority in the cosmos. Therefore, with angelic powers over these are those who generally mediate the law and exercise a dominant, manipulative type of control over others and resist the freedom in Christ. In Christ Jesus you can be free! Don’t fall under that which will take that freedom from you. It is coming often from those who are identified with a power that is on them, as they have yielded to demonic suggestions and powers.

In **verse 22**, we read - . . . ***commandments and doctrines of men*** -*speaking of perfection of Christian character through rules and not after Christ.* All these things are the next thing to do and next thing not to do . Observing certain taboos might seem to give a person a reputation of spiritual wisdom and sacrificial humility, however, such taboos in actual practice do not honor God; all they do is to add to man’s pride. “Oh, look what I accomplished for God!” It is not after Christ. Don’t be fooled by it, because they don’t

honor God but serve just the indulgence of the flesh. In the economy of grace, any ordinance performed on the flesh is of no account. The *flesh* in the Bible speaks of the old man in his sinful rebellion and not merely in a sensual term.

I love the old hymn -

— Buried with Christ, and raised with Him, too;
What is there left for me to do?
Simply to cease from struggling and strife;
Simply to walk in newness of life!

Glory be to God. Amen.