

"Uncontrolled in Christ"

Colossians 2:16-23

Don't allow people to control your food and festivities (16, 17).

**Judge* here = condemn, critique, take you to task so as to control behavior

Five areas of control: *food, drink, festivals, new moons, Sabbaths*

*OT had lots of rules about such: Lv. 10:9, 11:34-36, 23:3-8. Num. 6:3

NT has few rules about such: I Tim. 4:2-5, Mk. 7:14-19, I Cor. 10:23.

Rom. 14, Gal. 4:10. In NT God actually condemns such rules!

*Why no rules now? Contrast of shadow of OT Law (Heb. 10:1, Gal. 4:10), versus the reality / substance of Christ. We're not under the OT law.

Don't allow people to control you through ascetics and angels (18, 19).

*What do we want to avoid?

See Cor. 3:10-15, 2 Tim. 2:5. In 3:15 = "rule" (umpire / decide / control).

*How might some seek to control you?

-false humility (humility gone bad, Mtt. 6:16 / probably self-abusing)

-angel worship

-entering into things he's seen (ecstatic visions)

*Why you need to blow them off?

They have an inflated view of themselves and are out of touch w/Christ.

*Do we sometimes allow ourselves to be duped by "deep insights"?

*Do we sometimes seek to control others by claiming "deep insights"?

Don't-decrees seem wise but aren't for the Christian (20-23).

*Paul is shocked that Christians would return to a bunch of negative rules!

"If" is not questioning their salvation--"if" could be translated "since."

*These negative rules may seem appropriate / helpful but are worthless!

-They have a reputation for seeming wise (versus wisdom in 2:3, 3:16).

-Their austere, self-imposed physical behaviors are valueless.

*Do we sometimes confuse healthy foods with holy foods?