

THE BOOK OF COLOSSIANS

COLOSSIANS 2:16-23

INTRODUCTION:

1. The book of Colossians places emphasis on the authority of Christ in the church. (Col. 2.10).
2. In our text, individuals were binding their opinions on others and judging them based on those opinions. (Col. 2.4,8,16,18)
3. Christianity can be filled with the expectations of others.

I. WHAT IS LEGALISM?

- A. Legalism is not the insistence of obeying the commandments of scripture. (Heb. 5.9)
- B. The Pharisees and scribes were legalists.
 1. Legalism is extrapolated commandments. (Mark 7.2-4)
 2. Legalism is emphasizing one set of commandments as more important than others. (Matt. 23.23)
 3. Legalism is exalting one issue as the basis of judging the faithfulness of another. (Matt. 12.9,10)

II. WHAT DOES LEGALISM DO?

- A. Legalism attempts to control the lives of others.
 1. **COLOSSIANS 2.20:** *“why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations”*
 2. Regulations (dogmatizesthe): Established opinion.
 3. The Pharisees were dogmatic. (Matt. 23.4)
 4. Only Christ can regulate life. (Matt. 28.18; Rom. 8.4,5)
- B. Legalism restricts what we can do.
 1. **COLOSSIANS 2.21:** *“Do not...”*
 2. The Pharisees were restrictive. (Matt. 12.2)
 3. It is only Christ who can restrict behavior. (1 Cor. 4.3)
- C. Legalism establishes creed books.
 1. **COLOSSIANS 2.22:** *“commandments and doctrines”*
 2. The Pharisees had their own creed books. (Matt. 15.2)
 3. No book but the Bible. (2 Tim. 3.16,17)
- D. Legalism customizes Christianity.
 1. **COLOSSIANS 2.23:** *“self-imposed religion”*
 2. We cannot go beyond scripture. (1 Cor. 4.6)

CONCLUSION: Each one must work out their own salvation.

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“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”
-Mark 16.15

June 26, 2022

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

DO YOU KNOW GOD?

When I was a child, my parents took me to a baseball game. Our seats were located among the first rows in right field. Before the game, Reggie Smith who was playing right field for the Dodgers came up to me, shook my hand, and said hello. Although I have met Reggie Smith, I cannot say that I know him.

Most of the world believes that there is a God. Everyone has enjoyed a variety of blessings from God as He *“makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good”* (Matt. 5.45). However, very few can say that they know God. Jesus tells of those who claim to know Him saying, *“We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets”* (Luke 13.26). Just as Reggie Smith would not know me if I approached him today, so Jesus said to those who met Him, *“I do not know you”* (Luke 13.27).

How can we know God? If we turn to 1 John, we find four conditions for having a relationship with God. First, we know God when we walk in the light (1 John 1.6,7). Secondly, we know God when we keep His commandments (1 John 2.3-5). Third, we know God when we believe in Jesus (1 John 4.15). Fourth, we know God when we love one another (1 John 4.7,8). Fifth, we know God when we practice righteousness (1 John 2.29).

WHEN JESUS PRAYED FROM THE CROSS

LUKE 23:46

INTRODUCTION:

1. Having a strong prayer life will strengthen our relationship with God and draw us close to Him.
2. Three different times, Jesus prayed to God from the cross. We can develop a better prayer life by learning from His example.

I. SHORT PRAYERS

- A. From the cross, the prayers that Jesus uttered were short. (Mark 14.34; Luke 22.34,46).
- B. How lengthy should our prayers be to God?
 1. While there is nothing wrong with long prayers, some think that a prayer is only legitimate when it is lengthy.
 2. **MATTHEW 6.7:** *“For they think that they will be heard for their many words.”*
- C. Suggestions to pray short, meaningful prayers.
 1. Praise: Begin with a word of praise. (Acts 4.24)
 2. Purpose: Ask God to do something. (Phil. 4.6).
 3. Appreciation: Say thank you to God. (Phil. 4.6)

II. SELFLESS PRAYERS

- A. From the cross, the things Jesus said were selfless.
 1. Most of what Jesus said or prayed from the cross was about someone else. (Luke 23.34,43; John 19.26,27,30)
 2. His prayers mirrored His life. (Matt. 20.28)
- B. Our prayers should always include thoughts of others.
 1. Think of others more than ourselves. (Phil. 2.3-5)
 2. The prayers that are uttered out of selfishness are prayers that go unheard. (James 1.2,3)

III. SIMPLY PRAYERS

- A. We make prayers more complicated than they need to be.
 1. Prayer is something to be learned. (Luke 11.1)
 2. Jesus teaches us to pray simple prayers. (Luke 11.1-4)
- B. Our prayers do not have to be complicated to be effective. Pray simple prayers. (Luke 23.34,46; Matt. 27.46)

CONCLUSION: We can talk to God about anything. God expects us to be people who pray. (Phil. 4.6).

IS IT MY FAULT THAT THEY ARE LOST?

Last night I had a dream. I was standing in a long line on the day of judgment as each individual was taking his turn talking to Jesus about the life they had lived (2 Cor. 5.10).

As I looked around, I recognized some of the people standing in line with me. One of them was my neighbor. I saw him almost every day. We would exchange waves as we pulled out of our driveways to head off to work. Occasionally, he would come over and have dinner with me and my family. Our kids played together. I borrowed his lawnmower, and last thing I remember, it was still in my garage. I watched as he stepped up to the thorn of judgment. I heard him cry out, “Lord, I didn’t know.” His head hung in shame as he was separated and placed among those on the left (Matt. 25.33,41). My heart sank realizing that I had never talked to him about Jesus. He was lost for eternity, and it was my fault.

The next person stepped forward to appear before the judgment seat of Christ. As I looked closely, I saw that the person who was talking to Jesus was my aunt. She was my closest relative. I remember her taking me to the movies and afterwards getting ice cream. When I struggled during my teenage years, she was the one who would sympathize and counsel me. After I was married and had a family of my own, she would come and visit me often. I could not overhear the conversation between her and my Lord, but I could tell that it wasn’t going well. Like my neighbor, she too was sent away to join the ever-growing number of souls on the left. I had spent a lot of time with my aunt, but I never talked to her about the gospel. She was lost, and it was my fault.

Then it was my turn to step up to the judgment seat. I had tried to live a good life. I obeyed the gospel at an early age. I was at the church building every time the doors were opened. I was hopeful that I would be placed on the right and welcomed into heaven. As Jesus looked at me, He shook His head in disappointment. He then said these words: “You hid My name from all these souls. Depart, I know you not.” I was lost for all eternity, and it was my fault. I had a chance to tell others about Jesus, and I did not.

We talk to our friends and family about sports, politics, our favorite hobbies, our jobs. We share what we have for dinner on social media. But we do not share Jesus. God has chosen to use His people as the means to spread the good news (2 Cor. 2.14). At the end, will He say “well done?”