

**Sermon Series: *Jesus, Our All In All* Sermon Title: *Counterfeits to Christ* Scripture: Colossians 2:16-23** Pastor Chris Fritz Sunday, November 10, 2019

**INTRODUCTION**

Warnings are a part of life!

Three Dangers: Empty Legalism, Arrogant Mysticism, and Useless Asceticism

Note: In verse 16, we are confronted by a very pregnant “therefore”.

**I. CONFRONTING THREE COUNTERFEITS TO CHRIST**

**A. Don’t be Judged by Empty Legalism. (Colossians 2:16-17)**

***“…let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath.” (Colossians 2:16)***

Caution #1: We (Christians in general) have been careless in our use of the word “legalism”.

 ***Romans 14:1-4 -***

Caution #2: Don’t use verse 16 as an excuse to automatically reject the counsel of other believers.

 ***Galatians 2:11; Galatians 6:1-2 -***

The answer to empty legalism is to grasp and celebrate the sufficiency and freedom of Christ.

***“These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.” (Col. 2:17)***

**B. Don’t be Disqualified by Arrogant, Misleading Mysticism. (Colossians 2:18-19)**

***“…worship of angels…”***

 ***Revelation 22:8-9 -***

***“…going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind…”***

The answer to arrogant mysticism is to cling, in loving submission, to Jesus and His word.

 ***1 Timothy 2:5; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; John 15:7-11 -***

**C. Don’t be Enslaved by Useless Asceticism. (Colossians 2:20-23)**

The answer to useless asceticism is to live like who you really are (a new creation!) in Christ.

***“If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations…” (Colossians 2:20)***

***“…contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.” (Jude 3b)***

*“You may look and study and ponder, but Jesus is a greater Savior than you think Him to be even when your thoughts are at their best. My Lord is more ready to pardon than you are to sin, more able to forgive than you are to transgress. My Master is more willing to supply your needs than you are to confess them. Do not tolerate small thoughts of the Lord Jesus.”* (Charles Spurgeon)

**Take Home Questions for Further Study, Reflection, and Application…**

1. What’s the purpose of the “therefore” in verse 16? What does it point us back to?
2. What is “legalism”? How are we tempted to misuse that word when speaking of others?
3. How does Paul describe the mystical teachings of the false teachers? How does he describe the false teachers themselves?
4. What is asceticism and how are we tempted to be led astray by this kind of thinking?
5. How does Paul explain that we should combat these false, unhelpful, and empty teachings and practices? How does Paul continually point us to Jesus and His fullness/sufficiency?