

## Christ IS the REALITY ~ Colossians 2:16-23

→Scripture Reading - Colos 2: 16–17, 20-23

### INTRODUCTION

>casting very dark shadows.

### The SHADOW is NOT Reality ~ Colossians 2:16-19

<sup>16</sup> Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. <sup>17</sup> These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.

#### LEGALISM... PTW

- is JOYLESS
- demands UNIFORMITY
- produces SURFACE Faith
- results in a SHALLOW self-righteousness

<sup>18</sup> Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you for the prize. Such a person goes into great detail about what he has seen, and his unspiritual mind puffs him up with idle notions.

<sup>18</sup> Let no one condemn you by delighting in ascetic practices and the worship of angels, claiming access to a visionary realm. Such people are inflated by empty notions of their unspiritual mind. CSB

<sup>19</sup> He has lost connection with the Head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow.

True spirituality does not come by compliance with Laws which are only a Shadow but by Connection with the REALITY who is Christ. BKC

### IMPLICATION

<sup>18</sup> Don't let anyone condemn you by insisting on pious self-denial or the worship of angels, saying they have had visions about these things. Their sinful minds have made them proud, <sup>19</sup> and they are NOT connected to Christ, the Head of the body. For He holds the whole body together with its joints and ligaments, and it grows AS God Nourishes IT. (NLT)

**Hebrews 12:2-3** (NIV) Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup> Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinful men, SO THAT you will not grow weary and lose heart.

## You DIED With Christ ~ Colossians 2:20-23

<sup>20</sup> Since you died with Christ to the basic principles of this world, why, as though you still belonged to it, do you submit to its rules: <sup>21</sup> “Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!”? <sup>22</sup> These are all destined to perish with use, because they are based on human commands and teachings. <sup>23</sup> Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.

## TAKE AWAY ??

<sup>23</sup> These Rules may seem wise because they require strong devotion, pious self-denial, and severe bodily discipline. But they provide NO HELP in conquering a person’s evil desires. (NLT)

→ROAD

**Legalism** - Rigid Rules and Restrictions

**License** - I will DO what I choose

**GRACE** - I choose Obedience

**Isaiah 29:13** (NIV) The Lord says: “These people come near to Me with their mouth and honor Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me. Their worship of ME is made up only of RULES taught by men.

**Romans 6:1** (NIV) What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?

<sup>6:1</sup> Now what is our response to be? Shall we sin to our heart's content and see how far we can exploit the grace of God? What a ghastly thought! (JBP)

**1 Corinthians 6:12, 19-20** (NLT)

<sup>12</sup> You say, “I am allowed to do anything” - but not everything is good for you. And even though “I am allowed to do anything,” I must not become a slave to anything...

<sup>19</sup> Don’t you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, <sup>20</sup> for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.

<sup>23</sup> Although these have a reputation for wisdom by promoting self-made religion, false humility, and severe treatment of the body, they are NOT of any VALUE in curbing self-indulgence. (CSV)

<sup>23</sup> ...they LACK any VALUE in restraining sensual indulgence. (NIV)