“Warnings About Empty-Handed Teaching Not Holding to Christ”

Colossians 2:16-19 Sunday January 28, 2024

## INTRODUCTION READ Colossians 2:1-23 [Pew Bible pg. 925]

Paul’s letter to the Colossians commends them for their response to the gospel and present faithfulness, but also warns them of the dangers that were present due to those among them that were advocating false teaching. False logic and skilled speech can cause confusion and even sway some to wrong belief and practice. Pastor Scott Harris

 Complete in Christ 2:4-7, 8-12, 17, 19 “Christ . . . in Him . . .with Him”

 Our Sufficient Savior: Complete In Christ [vv. 9-11] Union with Him [vv. 11-15]

This chapter presenting warnings of such false teaching [2:4, 8, 16, 18, 20].

The apostle Paul describing The false teachers themselves and their teachings

1. Empty-Handed Religious Judgments of Legalism 2:16-17
2. Imposition of Teachings of Men According to Legalism 2:16

 Judgment of Legalism “Claims There Are More Important Practices”

“Therefore, no one is to judge you . . .” commanding, condemning

“Stop therefore allowing anyone to be sitting in judgment upon you” Wuest

“ . . . in food and drink, or in respect to a festival . . .

 . . . or a new moon or a Sabbath day—" READ Matthew 15:7-20

 elements of Judaism and Pharisaic Traditionalism READ Romans 14:1-10

Diets & Days were the focus of their teachings, Rules & Restrictions emphasis

“legalism always has a cultural face with distinctive rules of the day”

 Man-centered not Christ-centered READ Galatians 6:1-4

1. Confrontation of Teachings of Men According to Legalism 2:17

“things which are *only* a shadow of what is to come”Hebrews 8:5-6;10:1-2

“ . . . but the substance belongs to Christ.” REALITY

Empty-Handed Religious Judgments of Legalism 2:16-17

1. Empty-Handed Pious Ideas of Mysticism 2:18-19
2. Intimidation of Teachings of Men According to Mysticism 2:18

 Indictment of Mysticism “Claims There Are More Important Experiences”

 “Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize . . .” self-appointed

 Cf. 3:15 four participles here again

1. by delighting in self-abasement and . . .” “insisting his own will”
2. going into detail about *visions* he has seen, “taking his stand”
3. being puffed up for nothing by his fleshly mind, “inflated”

 “boasted that they were guided by the higher reason of their own mind*”*

 1 Corinthians 8:1; 13:4 orientated to self, the physical, this world

1. and not holding fast to the head, cf. 2:8-10
2. Confrontation of Teachings of Men According to Mysticism 2:19

 “. . . AND not holding fast to the head . . .” cf. 2:8-10

“The want of firm holding of Christ has set him loose tp himself”

 from whom the entire body, cf. 1:18, 24

 being supplied and held together

 by the joints and ligaments,

grows with a growth that is from God. READ Ephesians 1:20-22; 4:15-16

“artificial additives not included” examine the ingredients READ 1:5-6

CONCLUSION Warnings About Empty-Handed Teaching

1. Be on guard against the appeal & attitude of legalism of judging others

 Most Emphasis on Who Christ Is, What He Did, and What He said

1. Beware of religious exercises and spiritual experiences not holding to the teachings of Christ in the Christian life

 Clear Focus on Who I am In Christ and How I Walk In Christ

1. Constant need for Christ as those depending upon Him and holding to Him

 Right Diagnosis for Where He Is Head and When He Does Lead

1. There is no need to pursue added teachings and advanced practices as one holding onto Christ with His teachings and Christian practices in Him