

September 22, 2019

## Not Rules Just Right Colossians 2:16-23 Pastor Kirk Gambrell

Vol. 9 Num. 38

### Using This Study

#### ❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

#### ❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

#### ❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



This week we return to our study of Paul's letter to the Colossians. We pick up in the second half of chapter 2. So far in the book Paul has made clear his understanding of the person of Christ and his willingness to share the message of Christ at all cost. In the first part of chapter 2 Paul talks about our need to be rooted in Christ. Now in the second part of the chapter he takes a slight turn and talks about not being led astray by rules created by men. This has always been an issue in religion. People try to make rules for religions in order to get other people to do what they think should be done or what they want to be done. However, Christianity is more about a relationship with Christ. The condition of our heart is more important than a set of rules. But we must balance that with the reality that Jesus gave many commandments when He was on earth. Join us this week as we look at how we can be in a relationship with Christ and not restricted by the rules of man.

Create in me a clean  
heart, O God;  
and renew a right spirit  
within me.

Psalm 51:10

**Colossians 2:16-23** New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>16</sup>Therefore no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day— <sup>17</sup>things which are a *mere* shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ. <sup>18</sup>Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on *visions* he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind, <sup>19</sup>and not holding fast to the head, from whom the entire body, being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments,

grows with a growth which is from God.

<sup>20</sup>If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees, such as, <sup>21</sup>“Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!” <sup>22</sup>(which all *refer to* things destined to perish with use)—in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men? <sup>23</sup>These are matters which have, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self-abasement and severe treatment of the body, *but are* of no value against fleshly indulgence.

**o EXAMINE His Word (Observation)** (For personal preparation)

**What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the foregoing passage.**

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.
4. Is there anything repeated?
5. What is emphasized?
6. Is there anything in these passages that is related to other areas of scripture?
7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

**2 EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation)** (For Community Group discussion)  
**What does God MEAN?**

8. What is it that others are not to judge us on in verse 16? Does this include judging on everything?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. What is the prize in verse 18? What does Paul mean by defrauding you?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. How do we know if visions are from God? (like the ones talked about in v.18)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
11. Who or what are the elementary principles of the world in verse 20?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
12. Who is the head referred to in verse 19?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
13. In verse 21 what are the decrees referring to?

**③ EMBRACE His Word (Application)** (For Community Group discussion)  
Why does this MATTER to me?

14. How can we distinguish between the teaching of men and the teaching of God?

15. Clearly the Bible gives a lot of instruction on things that we should and shouldn't do. How do we distinguish between the things that are permissible and the things that are not?

16. In light of the passage, do you think it is ok to correct a fellow Christian when they are doing something they are not suppose to be doing? Why or why not? If yes, then how should it be done?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

**Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...**

*Sermon Notes*