

Don't lose your freedom in Christ to Legalism

Colossians 2:16-18c

Colossians 2:16

16 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—

Last week we noted that we are not to allow legalist to act as our judge in regard to food. There is a trend toward asceticism and distorting eating into a system of spirituality. And what is even worst for the body of Christ is that these legalist judge those who violate their taboos. They judge other bels by their own standards.

The advancement in the Christian life is based on time you spend in the Filling of the Holy Spirit and growing in the Knowledge of JESUS CHRIST and of God the Father, the intake of the Word of God; not of food.

Now if you think food is something wait till we get to the next one.

Beverage!

Consequently stop allowing anyone to judge you in eating or in drinking. Legalism in drinking means that there are beverage prohibitions to maintain spirituality.

Of course, this is not discussing water!

Water is never the issue in legalism. Except, of course, in regards to how purified the water you drink is, may or may not affect your health.

Biblical Doctrine of Drinking

We are going to start off with what the Bible says about drinking, not what the legalist say; and the Bible does have some things to say about drinking alcoholic beverages.

- 1** There are certain beverage prohibitions which are described in the Bible. These are not a matter of spiritual advancement or retrogression. There are certain beverage prohibitions which are designed to protect the human race, within the framework of a national entity.
 - (1)** The family of Aaron when entering the Tabernacle
Leviticus 10:9
 - (2)** The vow of the Nazirites Numbers 6:1-3 and 20;
Judges 13:4-7
- 2** There is a sin in the realm of beverage activity called **DRUNKENNESS**, but there are other sins too, like judging and that is one of the prohibitions in our study in Colossians 2.

Drunkenness is always condemned in the bible.

Drunkenness is a sin.

Isaiah 5:22

22 **Woe to those who are heroes in drinking wine And valiant men in mixing strong drink,**

Romans 13:13

13 **Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy.**

14 **But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to *its* lusts.**

Another passage that is very important in regards to **having the courage to love JESUS CHRIST.**

1 Corinthians 5:9-13

9 **I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people;**

10 **I *did* not at all *mean* with the immoral people of this world, unbelievers or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters, for then you would have to go out of the world.**

11 **But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he is an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler—not even to eat with such a one.** here is proof that one is still a believer, even if he lives a sinful life. So much for the lie about Lordship salvation.

12 **For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within *the church*?**

13 **But those who are outside, God judges. REMOVE THE WICKED MAN FROM AMONG YOURSELVES.**

Before we leave our study in Colossians 2 we are going to have to study the difference between sinful judging of One Another and making proper evaluations of another person's life and how you desire to live.

Ephesians 5:18

18 **And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit,**

drunk affected by alcohol to the extent of losing control of one's faculties or behavior.

dissipation debauchery, decadence, dissoluteness, intemperance, excess, overconsumption, self-indulgence, wildness.

What is interesting about this Greek word is that it originally carried the ideal of something as 'incurable' or 'hopelessly sick' from this it denoted one who destroys himself by dissipation—... that is, he wasted his life. And Paul places this wasted life in contrast with a life of one who Filled with the Holy Spirit.

3 Added to the above, drunkenness is to be avoided in certain categories of humanity who have 3 important responsibility.

(1) Kings... Proverbs 31:4-5.

(2) Pastors... 1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7.

(3) Deacons... 1 Timothy 3:8.

The Biblical Principle is that a ruler cannot rule under the influence of alcohol and a preacher cannot study and teach under the influence of alcohol.

4 Added to the above: drunkenness was prohibited in certain persons in the bible. It always led to something else...

(1) Noah_ Genesis 9:21—Noah disobeyed and got drunk and resulted in incest

(2) Ephriam_ Isaiah 28:1—which ended in destruction.

(3) Lot got drunk by his two daughters and resulted in incest which brought about the Moabites and the Ammonites.

5 The drinking of alcoholic beverages is condoned under certain circumstances. A **limited** amount of alcohol is beneficial in at least three areas:

(1) The brain and nervous system, where moderate amounts of alcohol, where alcohol acts as a depressive, acts as a sedation. Too much has a toxic effect upon the brain and nervous system.

(2) The stomach, as Paul advises Timothy... To have a little wine for the stomach problems he was having. Never use this verse as an excuse to drink. Here Paul is using it for medical reasons.

(3) Circulation in older people to dilate the blood vessels and improve their circulation.

- 6** Having said this, there are great warnings with alcohol. It can be most addictive. Here is where wisdom comes into concern.

If you are prone to addiction, do not drink!!!

This is true of any addiction! Some people's metabolism causes them to be most susceptible to alcohol like many of the American Indians. Various human bodies are susceptible to a variety of things. My good friend Paul Stark, who is now home with the Lord, was allergic to milk products... to the point that he almost died before this was discovered.

Matthew 26:41

41 **"Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."**

Philippians 4:13

13 **I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.**

- 7** The first miracle that JESUS CHRIST performed was
"turning water into real wine"
in John 2:1-12.

This miracle is neither commending nor condemning drinking.

The Miracle was designed to focus attention as to who and what JESUS CHRIST was and is. That this was indeed real wine is attested by the wine taster who after tasting the

wine JESUS CHRIST had provided—said that most people serve the best wine first and the poorer wine last, but what has happened here is that the best wine was served at the end of the wedding feast.

8 There are multitude of verses that speak most favorably for the drinking of wine.

(1) Psalm 104:14-15

14 **He causes the grass to grow for the cattle, And vegetation for the labor of man, So that he may bring forth food from the earth,**

15 **And wine which makes man's heart glad, So that he may make *his* face glisten with oil, And food which sustains man's heart.**

(2) Ecclesiastes 9:7

7 **Go *then*, eat your bread in happiness and drink your wine with a cheerful heart; for God has already approved your doings.**

(3) Ecclesiastes 3:13

13 **moreover, that every man who eats and drinks sees good in all his labor—it is the gift of God.**

(4) Amos 9:14

14 **"Also I will restore the captivity of My people Israel, And they will rebuild the ruined cities and live *in them*; They will also plant vineyards and drink their wine, And make gardens and eat their fruit.**

(5) Isaiah 55:1

1 **"Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; And you who have no money come, buy and eat. Come, buy wine and milk Without money and without cost.**

9 The book of Joel is an excellent study on the destructive effects of Alcoholism in a nation. Excessive alcoholism in a nation leads to national disaster. —

People find in alcohol an escape from responsibilities or calamities. Joel 1.

The drunkenness of Judah will lead to economic depression Joel 1:4.

The failure due to alcoholism will lead to military invasion. Joel 1:6.

10 It would be an incomplete study of without taking up some of the adverse effects of alcohol. There are a great number but we will note just a few.

- (1)** It leads to impulsive and abusive behavior. Remember that while a small amount of alcohol may 'make the heart merry' alcohol is not a stimulant, it is a depressant and as a depressant it lowers inhibitions, dulls reflexes and amplifies mental attitude sins.

- (2) Leads to vernaces disease, which is a paralysis of the eyes, uncoordinated walk, the clouding of consciousness, vernaces disease can result in death.
- (3) Excessive alcohol destroys brain tissues. In this manner it acts in the same way as drugs. It is a chemical destruction of the soul. For the record, scientist now know that excessive alcohol, many drugs and pornography –all negatively affect the brain.
- (4) Cirrhosis of the Liver. Alcohol does destroy the liver.
- (5) DT's—Delirium Tremens; in which a person has confusion, anxiety, even terror; auditory and visual hallucination and delusions.
The list goes on and on... on the horrible impact of excessive use of alcohol.

11 The importance of abstinence in youth cannot be over emphasized. While moderate drinking is not prohibited in the Bible, it is a responsibility that comes with maturity and under that principle, all young people should abstain from drinking and should be taught by a responsible adult about drinking when and if they start drinking. Just as with driving a car, shooting a gun, there are certain general principles for drinking alcohol beverage which must be understood before one ever embarks the first time.

1 Drink in moderation

2 *Never drink alone*

- 3 *Never drink when upset*
- 4 *Never drink with strangers or in a strange place*
- 5 *Never drink just because others are drinking*
- 6 *Never drink while operating a motor vehicle or flying*
- 7 *Ladies, young or not so young, should never drink on dates with a strange man or an unknown crowd. Someone drops something into your beverage and you have had it!*
- 8 *Teenagers should not drink, period*

Now back to Colossians 2:

Consequently stop allowing anyone to judge you in eating or in drinking

Our passage in Colossians 2:16 is not dealing with whether you should or should not drink, many believers should never drink and drunkenness is a sin. But you are not to judge other believers who are involved in whatever they are eating or drinking. You should not judge another believer who is drinking or eating something you would not eat or drink. You may or may not agree —that is not the point of our passage;

**The point is they have freedom in Christ,
just as you have freedom in Christ.**

So many believers are so occupied about things that they forget that other believers have a right to live their own lives unto the Lord. And people, learn to pray, if you think someone is

drinking or eating too much, speak to them in Spiritual Love and pray to God about them.

Colossians 2:16

16 **Consequently stop allowing anyone to judge you in eating or in drinking or in respect to a festival KJ holy day**

Doctrine of the Feast

You have to realize that the early church was strongly influenced by Judaism.

1

The feasts are derived from the word meaning to dance, to be festive, joyous. Feasts were designed by God to express happiness as a response to the provisions from God. They were designed to be related to divine provision.

2

The feasts of Leviticus 23 were also designed to be a teaching tool to Israel in anticipation to the two advents of the Messiah. Therefore, they served as a form of worship. So, feasts were designed to serve three purposes for the Jews in the Old Testament.

- (1)** To express happiness in response to Divine Provisions.
- (2)** Serve as Teaching festivals.
- (3)** A form of Worship of God.

3

Therefore, you can see why Satan had to get involved and confuse these festivals in the Old Testament and in the Church Age.

4

The feast were also related to the agriculture economy of Israel. The Passover was held during the time of the latter rains or the barley harvest.

The First Fruits was held at the time of the wheat harvest.

Pentecost was held at the time when the early figs ripened.

The Trumpets and Tabernacles were held during the early rains or the time of sowing.

So the feasts of Israel were related to the schedule of sowing and reaping—giving thanks to God for His Blessings.

5

First Advent Feasts—these are the feasts that were to teach Israel of the First Advent of their Promised Messiah.

- (1) Passover: Which taught the cross.
- (2) The Unleavened Bread: Which taught temporal fellowship with God as a result of the First Advent.
- (3) The Feast of the First Fruits: This taught of the Resurrection of the Messiah.

- (4) Feast of Pentecost: Which warned of the coming of the dispersion of Israel out of their land or the 5th cycle of discipline.

6

Then there would be a big-time gap between the first four Feasts –which dealt with the First Advent and the last three feasts. There would be the four feasts from Passover to Pentecost ending in our June. Then there was a time gap up to the later part of September. While they did not know this of course, but this time gap represents the historical period of the Church Age.

7

Now we come to the last Three Feast that concentrate on the 2nd Advent of the Messiah.

Trumpets:

Depicted the 2nd Advent of the Messiah and emphasized that the scattered Israelites —scattered throughout the world due to the 5th Cycle of Discipline (during the Church Age) were to be regathered — called home by the sound of the Trumpets.

The trumpets blew — Jews from all over the world assembled in the land of Israel.

This is the regathering of Israel at the 2nd Advent.

Feast of Atonement:

Taught the fulfillment of the unconditional covenants at the 2nd Advent—with all believing Jews restored to the land, God would not fulfill the unfulfilled covenants and usher in the New Covenant.

Tabernacles which, of course, emphasized the millennial reign of Christ.

So, all three feasts were 2nd Advent Feasts and begins the millennium.

8

Not ordained... but found in John 10:22 was the feast of dedication or Hanukkah, which is the independent celebration of the Jews. It would correspond to our 4th of July celebration.

It was first celebrated on the 25th of December 164 BC, when the temple was cleansed as a result of winning independence in the Maccabean War.

9

All these feasts had a special purpose throughout the age of Israel in the Old Testament.

So, in regard to the exhortation in Colossians 2

do not let anyone judge you in the matter of feast;

- (1) There is no spiritual growth which can be attached to observing these feasts in the Church Age.
- (2) We learn many things in studying them in the Scriptures as part of growing in the Knowledge of the

Word of God, but to observe them does not result in spiritual growth. But legalist try to impose the celebration of these feast on believers during the Church Age.

- (3) In the Church Age these feasts are to be studied but not observed.
- (4) Therefore, do not judge anyone in the Church Age as to their not observing these feasts. The principle is that there is no substitute for growing in the Word of God in the Church Age.

Colossians 2:16

16 **Consequently stop allowing anyone to judge you in eating or in drinking or in respect to a festival or a new moon**

This is a reference to the first day of the month. It was called a New Moon Festival. It is found in Numbers 10:10; 28:11; Isaiah 1:13; and Ezekiel 46:1. It was the festival of the First Day of the Month. The Jews had a holiday the First Day of the Month. It was a special worship day to begin the new month, occupied with God and the coming Messiah. This, of course, was in the time of the dispensation of Israel, but not for the Church Age. In the Church Age the First Day of the Month is not celebrated as a special day. In the Age of Israel, the First Day of the Month was observed by the blowing of trumpets and offering of sacrifices: by feasting!

And in the midst of that feasting was the teaching of the Scriptures as according to Numbers 28:11-15; 2 Kings 4:23 and 1 Samuel 20:...verses 4, 6, 24 and 29.

The **New Moon** was a Ritual (a shadow) and is now replaced by the study of the Word of God and perhaps in the partaking of Communion.

The celebration of the **New Moon** is not practiced much today but was a problem at the beginning of the Church Age.

But the next one presents problems.

Colossians 2:16 **Consequently stop allowing anyone to judge you in eating or in drinking or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day of of the Sabbaths** plural

This is the 3rd category of Holy Days mentioned in this verse.

People often become legalistic about rituals or feasts or the observants of something.

In the Word of God, the Sabbath is the 7th day of the week or Saturday. It was set aside by God as a memorial to God's Provision and the Work of God, in the dispensation of Israel, that man should rest on the works of God.

You can do nothing for spiritual blessings, God has done all the work and now you just rest in what He has provided for you. You can do nothing for salvation or add to your salvation, you can do nothing to gain from God and this is what the Sabbath rest was designed to teach.

God provides Everything!

It was a weekly reminder that man can do nothing in the Plan of God and, therefore, they learned about **Grace**.

In the Church Age, all this is changed.

In the Church Age the believer is to regard every day alike according to Romans 4:4-10.

We no longer regard the Sabbath as a special day; we learn about Grace from the completed canon of Scripture. By the daily study of the Word of God we continually learn about Grace.

We have the New Testament and that teaching is a constant reminder that we cannot do anything in the Plan of God but live by Faith in the Holy Spirit and walking, living in the Holy Spirit. Every day we rest in the work of the Holy Spirit, so we no longer observe the Sabbath as a special day.

Now traditionally the Church assembles on Sunday, the first day of the week. This is not according to some dogma taught in the Scriptures. The principle in the early church was to begin the week with worship and with the study of the Word of God to carry us through the week. The power of the Word of God carries you through the days of your life.

Doctrine of the Sabbath

- 1 From the beginning the Sabbath was designed by God to teach not only grace but many important lessons for life. Genesis 2:2-3

- 2 **By the seventh day God completed His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.**

- 3 **Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, set it apart from the other 6 days a week because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.**

The Hebrew word Sabbath is derived from the Hebrew word *shavath*, meaning 'to rest'. On the 7th day of the **Restoration of the Earth** (restored from the **ANGELIC CONFLICT**) God rested, not because He was tired but because there was nothing more to be done! **HE HAD DONE IT ALL!** In the garden man and woman (Adam and Eve) received everything by Grace and that means that man rested in God's Provision and this was the meaning in the original Sabbath in Genesis 2.

- 2 The Sabbath of Israel was the memorial of God's Gracious Provision. Isa. 58:11-14. It was instituted as the 4th Commandment of Exodus 20:8-11 and in Leviticus 23:3.

The Jews were to do no work on the Sabbath as a worship of God. By the way, since the Sabbath has no significance in the Church Age is another indication that we are not under

the 10 Commandments, but when we Love in Spiritual Love under the Filling of the Holy Spirit we fulfill all the Law.

3 The Sabbatical year of Israel, that is the 7th year was another national monument of rest for the land of Israel.

Exodus 23:10-11; Leviticus 25:3-4 and Leviticus 26:33-36

4 The year of Jubilee which was every 50th year was determined by the number of Sabbatical Years. There would be 7 sabbatical years then there would be a year of Jubilee. Leviticus 25: .

So, the Sabbath was also needed to determine the year of Jubilee.

5 Profaning the Sabbath was associated with idolatry and apostasy among the Jews. Ezekiel 23:37-39 and Nehemiah 13:15-21

6 The Sabbath was set aside in the Church Age. The entire book of Galatians and Colossians 2:16 demonstrates this. Now, Legalist try to keep the Sabbath as some spiritual blessing in the Church Age. Again, we are not to judge a believer who does keep the observance of the Sabbath. But there are not any spiritual blessings associated with keeping the Sabbath.

Unfortunately, there is a lot of legalism associated with Sunday, again, not found in the New Testament.

Colossians 2:16

16 **Consequently stop allowing anyone to judge you in eating or in drinking or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day of of the Sabbaths**

17 Verse 17 will further explain verse 16
things which are a *mere* shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ.

VICTORY IN JESUS

I heard an old, old story,
How a Savior came from glory,
How He gave His life on Calvary
To save a wretch like me;
I heard about His groaning,
Of His precious blood's atoning,
Then I repented of my sins
And won the victory.

**O VICTORY IN JESUS,
MY SAVIOR, FOREVER.
He sought me and purchased me
With His redeeming blood;

He loved me ere I knew Him
And all my love is due Him,
He plunged me to victory,
Beneath the cleansing flood.**

I heard about His healing,
Of His cleansing pow'r revealing.
How He made the lame to walk again
And caused the blind to see;
And then I cried, "Dear Jesus,
Come and heal my broken spirit,"
And somehow Jesus came and bro't
To me the victory.

**O VICTORY IN JESUS,
MY SAVIOR, FOREVER.
He sought me and purchased me
With His redeeming blood;

He loved me ere I knew Him
And all my love is due Him,
He plunged me to victory,
Beneath the cleansing flood.**

I heard about a mansion
He has built for me in glory.
And I heard about the streets of gold
Beyond the crystal sea;
About the angels singing,
And the old redemption story,
And some sweet day I'll sing up there
The song of victory.

**O VICTORY IN JESUS,
MY SAVIOR, FOREVER.
He sought me and purchased me
With His redeeming blood;

He loved me ere I knew Him
And all my love is due Him,
He plunged me to victory,
Beneath the cleansing flood.

BENEATH THE CLEANSING FLOOD.**

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

**A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD, A BULWARK NEVER FAILING;
OUR HELPER HE, AMID THE FLOOD OF MORTAL ILLS PREVAILING:**
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and pow'r are great, and, armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

**DID WE IN OUR OWN STRENGTH CONFIDE, OUR STRIVING WOULD BE LOSING,
WERE NOT THE RIGHT MAN ON OUR SIDE, THE MAN OF GOD'S OWN CHOOSING:**
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He;
Lord Sabaoth, His Name, from age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.

**THAT WORD ABOVE ALL EARTHLY POW'RS, NO THANKS TO THEM, ABIDETH;
THE SPIRIT AND THE GIFTS ARE OURS THROUGH HIM WHO WITH US SIDETH;**
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still,
His kingdom is forever.

His kingdom is forever.

SPECIAL MUSIC

**THERE IS A RIVER THAT FLOWS FROM DEEP WITHIN
THERE IS A FOUNTAIN THAT FREES THE SOUL FROM SIN.**

sung by **Judith Mattox**