

Are You Living In Reality
or
Are You Living In The Shadows?

Colossians 2:17

Colossians 2:16

- 1 **Consequently** (because JESUS CHRIST has won the **ANGELIC CONFLICT** and you are in position with Him at the right hand as a priest in Christ) **Consequently stop allowing anyone to judge you in eating and drinking or in the matter of a feast or of the new moon or of the Sabbath**

This passage centers on the Sin of Legalism

Legalism

Just remember

A Little Legalism Will Not Hurt You, It Will Kill You

I	DEFINITION
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1. Legalism is any system of merit by works, performance by which man tries to gain the approbation of God, by something he does.

2. Man tries to perform to gain, Sal. or Spirituality, or blessings from God by his performance.
3. Legalist seek to build their own righteousness on list of taboos that they have established.

II	LEGALISM IS THE ANTITHESIS OF GRACE.
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III	THEREFORE, THE WEAK OR LEGALISTIC BELIEVER IS THE PRIMARY SOURCE OF A BELIEVER JUDGING OTHER BELIEVERS WHO FUNCTION UNDER GRACE.
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Remember the Principle:

It is the legalist who judges the Grace believer.

The Grace believer does not judge the Legalist.

This is the lesson and Principle of 'the son of the bondwoman persecutes the son of the free woman. Matthew 7:1 5

Romans 14:4

4	Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.
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Romans 14:10

10 **But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.**

IV

WHY IS LEGALISM SO BAD?

Legalism is trying to take the Glory away from Christ...

Trying to share in the Glory of Christ.

V

ALL LEGALISM IS EVIL AND WHEN I SAY EVIL, I MEAN IT IN ITS ABSOLUTE SENSE: PEOPLE TREAT EACH OTHER IN EVIL WAYS; IT IS EVIL WHAT SOME DOES TO ANIMALS, ETC. BUT THE ABSOLUTE EVIL IS TO TRY TO TAKE CREDIT TO YOURSELVES WHAT CHRIST HAS DONE ON THE CROSS!

Distortion of the Gospel is the greatest of all **evils!**

Why? Because its sends people to the eternal Lake of Fire.

Galatians 2:11-13

11 **But when Cephas (Peter) came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned.**

This is a powerful moment in Church history. Here in Antioch for one leader to oppose another so boldly; but the problem was the worst form of evil.

12 **For prior to the coming of certain men from James, (in Jerusalem... full of Legalism as it related to the Gospel and the Filling of the Holy Spirit) he (Peter) used to eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he (Peter) began to withdraw and hold himself aloof, fearing the party of the circumcision.**

Here is what Legalism does—it tries to control others.

There was nothing wrong with Peter fellowshiping with Gentiles but to the Legalists of Jerusalem—this was forbidden. Why? They were not circumcised. Peter is a hypocrite... he is distorting the Gospel.

13 **The rest of the Jews joined him in hypocrisy, (this means that other Jews in Antioch also fellowshiped with Gentiles, but when the Legalists came in they stopped fellowshiping with them) with the result that even Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy.**

Here is a very important point about Legalism. Legalism intimidates others, attempts to control others, and worst of all, judges others.

Any Performance system leads to judging One Another.

Here is wonderful Barnabas, who knows better, backing off Grace and going into Legalism. Everyone can become Legalistic before they even know it.

Hypocrisy:

Here is the evil of Legalism. You act as though, even claim, you did something for your Salvation or the Filling of the Holy Spirit. That is a hypocrite, you receive both of these by Grace through Faith.

14 **But when I saw that they were not straightforward
about the truth of the gospel,**

Here is the Evil of Legalism –

Legalism takes away from the Truth of the Gospel.

Truth from The Source of The Gospel!

- 1 Truth from the Gospel is that God Does it All and all we have to do is Trust Him—the one He sent; Gospel of John 6:29.
- 2 Truth from the Gospel guides us in all relationships with God. To recover from sin, (Filling of the Holy Spirit), you do not need to add works, just go back to Gospel. To live the Spirit Filled Life go back to Truth of Gospel.
- 3 Legalism - When a believer walks according to law, (works), (do and do) or rather deviation from truth of Gospel.

NIV **“acting in line”** in line with what?

In line with how you were saved.

And how were you saved?

By Grace through the Faith;

Straightforward from the Greek word **ortho-podeo**, Orthodox;

Orthopedic—foot straightening;

Now, if any of you were to break your leg, you would be sure that the Orthopedic doctor, knew what straight looked like. Yet, many will listen to someone present a Gospel that is **not straight!**

Not according to the Word of God.

The Word of God

VII

VII SO HERE IS THE QUESTION:

What is it you have to do to recover from sin, to be Filled with the Holy Spirit; to live a Righteous life, and for Spiritual Love, etc.?

Is the way you claim to obtain these things... in keeping with the way you were saved? —the way you initially receive the Holy Spirit, Inner Righteousness, etc.

Is it orthodox to your Salvation?

**IF IT IS NOT SIMPLY BY FAITH... THEN IT IS NOT
ORTHODOX TO YOUR SALVATION.**

It is not straightforward according to the Gospel by which you were saved.

VIII

PRINCIPLE:

AGAIN, AND AGAIN, LIVE HOW YOU WERE SAVED

Keep walking according to how you were saved.

**Recovery from sin,
Living in the Spirit Filled Life;
Righteous life,
Spiritual Love**

all are determined by how you were saved.

I want to know how to walk as a saved Christian?

Walk straightforward according to gospel.

As You Were Saved—So Live

Never move from Truth of Gospel;

Everyone claims that their list is NOT works:

BUT if it is NOT simple Faith—then it is not straightforward—
according to Truth of The Gospel.

IX

PRINCIPLE:

FAILURE TO UNDERSTAND HOW WE WERE SAVED LEADS TO FAILURE TO UNDERSTAND HOW TO LIVE.

Galatians 2:14

14

I said to Cephas in the presence of all (not in Private; but in Antioch in Public; different circumstance—leading of the Holy Spirit... flexible: in Jerusalem –argue Gospel but here in Antioch Gospel is accepted—practiced—by all, until Peter came in) **I said to Cephas in the presence of all, “If you, being a Jew, live like the Gentiles and not like the Jews, how is it that you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews?”**

VIII

VIII. LEGALISM AND RIGHTEOUSNESS

You cannot have a shadow without light—shadows are formed by light and once the reality comes that is once the Light of the world comes—JESUS CHRIST, then there is no need for the shadows.

And here is where Legalism comes in. Legalism tries to continue these without meaning and in deed without purpose—don't focus on the shadows once the reality has come. Legalism always focuses on the non-essentials... On the shadows, never on the reality.

1 Principle:

You cannot build your Righteousness but trying to run down another believer's righteousness.

2 You cannot build your righteousness on human standards or religion.

3 You cannot build your righteousness on the observation of taboos or some man-made list.

4 You **CAN** build your righteousness only by living in the Holy Spirit. Galatians 5:5

Now we move into verses 17

17 **things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ.**

Things which this refers to the 3 categories of Holy Days or areas of Legalism from the previous verse...—that is the antecedent is a feast or a new moon—new month or the Sabbath

are –are and keep on being

shadow This is a technical use of this Greek word:

It means: A shadow cast by an object representing its form.

It is a shadow in contrast to the reality and being PREDICATE NOMINATIVE. It declares a statement about what was mentioned at end of verse 16.

What this is saying is that these feast, and the first day of the month and the Sabbath are but shadows of the reality. They had their place in the Old Testament. They were a bonafide means to teaching the Israelites pertinent doctrine, but JESUS CHRIST is the reality of which they were but shadows, and once the reality comes then there is no need of the shadows.

Principle:

You cannot have a shadow without light,—shadows are formed by light and once the reality comes that is once the Light of the world comes—JESUS CHRIST, then there is no need for the shadows. And here is where Legalism comes in. Legalism tries to continue these without meaning and in deed without purpose—don't focus on the shadows once the reality has come.

Legalism always focuses on the non-essentials... On the shadows, never on the reality. We have seen that there is a positive and a negative to the Gospel; well there is also a positive and a negative to understanding of shadows.

First: Positive of Shadows

- 1 The first use of shadow in the Old Testament is where shadow is used for hospitality in Genesis 19:8.

Where one is said to be protected under the shade of his house—shade is used here for shadow and that for hospitality. If you invite someone to your home they are guest under the shade of your house. You show them hospitality.

- 2 A beautiful use of shadow is from a well know scripture where shadow is used for dying grace in Psalm 23:4. **'the valley of the shadow of death'**

The shadow is not the reality.

In this verse the valley of the shadow of death is not death itself. Death is the reality and dying is the shadow of death.

- 3 Shadow is used to represent the protection from God. You don't see God but you experience His protection and, therefore, the shadow is used for protection from God.

Psalm 17:8

Keep me as the apple of the eye; Hide me in the shadow of Your wings.

Psalm 36:7

How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God! And the children of men take refuge in the shadow of Your wings.

Psalm 91:1

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High Will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

You can see that 'shadow' refers to divine protection, provision and care. We do not see God but we experience His protection.

- 4 Shadow is used for love protection of the husband for his wife when the husband is absent. Song of Solomon 2:3
- 5 Another interesting one is that shadow is used for our lives here on earth in comparison with living in Eternity Future with JESUS CHRIST.

Job 8:9

1 **"For we are only of yesterday and know nothing,
Because our days on earth are as a shadow.**

1 Chronicles 29:15

1 **"For we are sojourners before You, and tenants, as all our fathers were; our days on the earth are like a shadow, and there is no hope.**

There is no hope in shadows; there is hope only in reality.

Negative Shadows in the Bible

- 1 Shadow is used for an empty, superficial type of life.

Psalm 144:4

Man is like a mere breath; His days are like a passing shadow.

Also, Ecclesiastes 6:12 and 8:13.

- 2 Shadow is used for instability in life. James 1:17

The believer who lives in the power and leading of the Holy Spirit according to Scripture lives a stable life,

but if not his life is always a shifting shadow.

- 3 A study of Isaiah 30:2 3 will show that the shadow is used for a bad foreign policy by a nation. A foreign policy not based on trusting God or listening to God, and therefore not based on spiritual or military preparedness. The nation of Israel had a weak military force and no spiritual force so they depended on an outside force of Egypt and this was a shadow protection rather than reality protection from God.

4 Shadow describes a life that is without the substance of reality. This describes Judah at the time of Isaiah; It describes Israel during the Tribulation and it describes multitude of believers today.

When a believer lives in the cosmic system he is living in the shadow of death:

dead works, dead production and a dead life.

JESUS CHRIST is the only reality in all history.

JESUS CHRIST is the only reality in your life—

It is JESUS CHRIST that makes your life more than just a shadow of living. Psalm 102:11; 109:23; Job 17:

5 Shadow is used for ritual of the Old Testament which have no reality...

...the reality comes in the Church Age.

Colossians 2:17; Hebrews 8:5 and 10:1

17 things which are a mere shadow of what is to come;

What is about to come but the substance belongs to Christ.

The shadows were pointing toward Christ, the reality to come was the coming of JESUS CHRIST—Incarnation of God-man; the first Advent of Christ.

But this conjunction emphasizes a contrast between the shadow and the substance.

But the substance King James but the body.

This Greek word covers 6 full columns in the Lexicon.

**Here it is used to refer to the Reality,
the substance in contrast to the shadow.**

17 things which are a mere shadow of what is to come;

- 1 The feast, new months, festivals and Sabbaths were all shadows pointing to the coming of the Messiah, Jesus the Christ.

- 2 They were divine means of communicating doctrine and teaching of the coming Messiah before the incarnation.
- 3 But Jesus Christ is the reality or the substance which these anticipated.
- 4 Once JESUS CHRIST came, the shadows were replaced by reality.
- 5 The substance of this reality is what is taught in the New Testament epistles.
- 6 The point is the Shadows have been replaced by the reality.
- 7 To continue with these shadows is the empty expression of Legalism. This is a great place to see just how empty Legalism really is. This is one of the things theologically wrong with any groups who observe these things like observing the Sabbath.
- 8 Ritual shadows anticipate the cross!
- 9 Doctrine correctly taught in the Church Age looks back at the cross.

10 Rituals never replace the reality!

Rituals cannot replace sound teaching of the Word of God.

Rituals do not feed the soul...

It is the Word of God that is Alive and Powerful.

*There's room at the cross for you
There's room at the cross for you
Though millions have come
There's still room for one
Yes, there's room at the cross for you.*