

COLOSSIANS 2:16-23

“COMBATING EXTERNAL THREATS WITH TIMELESS TRUTH”





2:16-19

- 16 Therefore do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food and drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or sabbaths. 17 These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. 18 Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, dwelling on visions, [these people are] puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking, 19 and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows with a growth that is from God.

2:20-23


- 20 If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the universe, why do you live as if you still belonged to the world? Why do you submit to regulations, 21 “Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch”? 22 All these regulations refer to things that perish with use; they are simply human commands and teachings. 23 These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-imposed piety, humility, and severe treatment of the body, but they are of no value in checking self-indulgence.

BIG TAKEAWAY

We can combat all threats to our faith, big or small, with timeless Gospel truth.

2:2-4

² I want their hearts to be encouraged and united in love, so that they may have all the riches of assured understanding and have the knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ himself, ³ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. ⁴ **I am saying this so that no one may deceive you with plausible arguments.**



2:8-10

⁸ See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. ⁹ For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰ and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority.

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- 1:15-20 – Powerful truth about who Jesus is and what he has done.

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- 1:26-29 – Christ is IN us
- 2:6-9 – Keep letting your roots in Christ grow deeper.
- 2:11-15 – Jesus's death and resurrection has disarmed the rulers and authorities.