


**CHRIST - CENTERED
FREEDOM**

Colossians 2:6-23



Introducing... the Incomparable CHRIST!

- Theme of the epistle to the Colossians (& tri-city churches)
- Live the new life completely IN the incomparable Christ

Introducing... the Incomparable CHRIST!

- Colossians 2:6-7

As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:

Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

Walking Worthy of Christ



“Walking”
=
Everyday living

Introducing... the Incomparable CHRIST!

- Colossians 2:6

As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:

Introducing... the Incomparable CHRIST!

- Colossians 2:7

1. Stability & Growth
“Rooted and built up in him”
2. Commitment
“stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught”
3. Gratitude
“abounding therein with thanksgiving”

Christ – centered Freedom



- Colossians 2:8-23

Enjoy the blessedness of Christ-centered Freedom

Christ – centered Freedom



- Colossians 2:8

Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

Christ – centered Freedom



- Colossians 2:8 (paraphrase from Greek)

Watch out that no one takes you captive through philosophy and hollow deception, according to

- the tradition of men,
- the elements & forces of this world,

and not according to Christ.

Christ – centered Freedom



- Colossians 2:8; 16; 18

Beware lest any man spoil you...

Let no man therefore judge you...

Let no man beguile you...

Christ – centered Freedom



- Colossians 2:8

Beware lest any man spoil you

= *takes you captive*

Christ – centered Freedom



- Colossians 2:8 (paraphrase from Greek)

Watch out that no one takes you captive through philosophy and hollow deception, according to

- the tradition of men,
- the elements & forces of this world,

Christ – centered Freedom

▪ Colossians 2:16-17

Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:

Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.

Christ – centered Freedom

▪ 1 Chronicles 23:31

And to offer all burnt sacrifices unto the Lord in the sabbaths, in the new moons, and on the set feasts, by number, according to the order commanded unto them, continually before the Lord:

Christ – centered Freedom

▪ Colossians 2:16-17

Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:

Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.

Christ – centered Freedom

▪ Romans 14:2-8

For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs. Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth: for God hath received him.

Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand.

Christ – centered Freedom

▪ Romans 14:2-8

He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks. For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.

Christ – centered Freedom

▪ Colossians 2:8 (paraphrase from Greek)

Watch out that no one takes you captive through philosophy and hollow deception, according to

- the tradition of men,
- the elements & forces of this world,

Christ – centered Freedom

▪ Colossians 2:18

Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, ...

Christ – centered Freedom

▪ Colossians 2:18

Let no man beguile (*disqualify*) you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, ...

Christ – centered Freedom

▪ Colossians 2:19

And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God.

Christ – centered Freedom

▪ Colossians 2:20-23

Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances, (Touch not; taste not; handle not; Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men?

Christ – centered Freedom

▪ Colossians 2:20-23

Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body: not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh.

Christ – centered Freedom

▪ Asceticism

“practicing strict self-denial as a measure of personal and especially spiritual discipline...”
<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary>

Features of Asceticism / Abstentionism

- Don't touch, don't taste, don't hold
= harsh treatment to the body...

Col. 2:23 (ESV)

These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.

Christ – centered Freedom



- Colossians 2:8 (paraphrase from Greek)

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- the tradition of men,
- the elements & forces of this world,

and not according to Christ.

Christ is the standard (vv. 9-15)

Christ – centered Freedom



- Colossians 2:9-10

For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

Christ – centered Freedom



- Colossians 2:11-12

In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:

Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

THE WRONG QUESTION

- The impact of Col. 2 on the comparison between the Old Testament practice of circumcision and New Testament ordinance of baptism and its significance in covenantal theology and infant baptism.

Christ – centered Freedom



- Colossians 2:11-12

In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:

Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

Christ – centered Freedom

- Colossians 2:13-15

And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened (made alive) together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;...

Christ – centered Freedom

- Colossians 2:13-15

Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;...

Christ – centered Freedom

- Colossians 2:13-15

...And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

Context: Self-Centered Perceptions of Spirituality

- Traditionalism / Legalism
 - rites and rituals
- Experientialism / Mysticism
 - worship of angels
- Asceticism
 - self-denial

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Christ – centered series

- Apr 12 Christ-centered Ministry
- Apr 19 Christ-centered Freedom
- Apr 26 Christ-centered Focus
- May 3 Christ-centered Change
- May 17 Christ-centered Relationships
- May 31 Christ-centered Living in a Post-modern world