

In the second half of chapter 2, Paul builds on the reality that Christ has set us free from the laws of sin and its condemnation. In the text that follows, he makes it clear that through Christ's triumph over sin, we ought not be bound by moralistic living any longer, rather we are to set our sights on things above and live a life of obedience through Christ's work in us.

Colossians 2:16-3:4

Focus

On What

Matters

I. COMPARING OUR STORIES

It's easy for us to abhor rules. It is not uncommon to come up against something that infringes on how we want to live, act, or behave. However, it can be a different experience when it's *our* rules *others* don't want to follow. Sadly as Christians it's often similar, even when we interact with other believers.

MY EXPERIENCE...

YOUR EXPERIENCE...

II. CONSIDERING OUR STRUGGLES

DO you consider yourself a rule-keeper or more of a rebel?

HOW might you describe your motivation for your response to the above question?

WHAT are some ways Christians get caught up in rules and traditions and miss the worship of Christ in it all?

DO you think there is still a place for God's laws or are they all now "voided out" in Christ?

Colossians 2:16-3:4 Read Colossians 2:16-3:4

Focus On What Matters

OBSERVATION

For what does Paul say no one ought to pass judgement on others for in vs. 16?

What are the things in vs. 17 a shadow of, according to Paul?

List the specific things mentioned for which Paul says many are accusing, even disqualifying, the Colossians.

What is the metaphor Paul uses in vs. 19?

In vs. 20-23 Paul identifies those things that have the appearance of wisdom, what are they and what does he say regarding their “true” value?

In 3:1-4, what is the way of living Paul is advocating for?

INTERPRETATION

Explain the connection created with “therefore” as vs. 16 begins.

What are the food, drink, festival, new moon, and Sabbath issues Paul is referring to in this passage?

According to vs. 17 what is the relationship shared between the things mentioned in vs. 16 and Christ? Consider Romans 10:4 and Galatians 3:24

Define the three items mentioned in vs 18 that Paul warns about? *What* do these things appeal to and why would people judge others in regards them?

In vs. 19, what are we called to hold fast to? What do you notice about this word that helps us understand where Paul is pointing his readers?

What is the significance of Christ’s position in 3:1 and our position in Him? (See Exodus 15:6, Ps. 110:1)

Describe how we’ve died and are now hidden in Christ (see 2 Corinthians 5:17-20). What relevance does this hold for us, and how Paul calls us to live in light of this reality?

If we are no longer held to the law, as Paul mentions in this section, but we are called to “set our minds on Christ”, how exactly are we supposed to now live?

APPLICATION

Where do you struggle when it comes to being free from the law?