

LESSON TEXT: Colossians 2:16 - 23

MEMORY VERSE: "So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith."— (Colossians 2:6–7a)

LESSON AIMS: To enable us:

1. Identify "the head."
2. Describe the implications of being dead with Christ.
3. Recruit an accountability partner to make one such implication a personal reality.

INTRODUCTION:

I once owned a car that had manual window winders. Many years later, when I bought a new model with power windows, I was very excited. However, after a few years, maybe due to bad design or poor construction, every window of my new vehicle required repair at some point. Either the windows wouldn't lower, or they wouldn't raise. One hot afternoon, as we were all sweating in a go-slow traffic situation, and the windows unable to wind down, we began to wish for the previous hand-crank windows. Those windows certainly appear to work all the time—or so I remembered. The power windows should have made our life simpler; instead, they had done the opposite.

In today's Scripture, false teachers in Colossae had been troubling Colossian believers by requiring additional practices for the people. These excessive requirements might have caused the Colossian believers difficulty in following Jesus. These false teachers weren't merely annoying the apostle Paul and the Colossian believers; their false teachings were doing the opposite of leading people to Christ.

QUESTIONS:

1. **TROUBLING JUDGEMENT (VS. 16–19)**
- A. Recite Last week's memory verse Romans 13:9

- B. i. Some people, use bible references such as Lev 10:8-11, Num 6: 1-4, and John 2:3-10 to say that the bible does not prohibit alcohol consumption, but rather, only restricts its usage during certain times of religious observances. How will you counsel such people? (Prov. 20:1, Eph 5:18, 1 Cor 6:12, Prov. 23:29-35).
- ii. How can we evaluate the spiritual benefits of religious celebrations or observances? (Col 3:17, Gal 5:13, 1 Pet 1:15-16, Matt. 26:26-29)
- C. Like the Colossians Paul addressed in today's text, there are those who "hallucinate", in the guise of going through spiritual exercise, and claim to see vision. How can we ensure we do not ourselves fall into this category of people? (1 John 4:1, Rom 8:14, Gal 5:22-23, Gal. 6:7).
- D. i. The Colossian church was on the verge of perishing because it did not maintain a connection with Christ. Why was this? (Eph 1:22, John 15:1-5, Col 3:1-3).
- ii. What steps can you take to remove distractions and circumstances that detach you from a life with Christ? (Heb 12:1, Ps 119:11, Jos 1:8, 1 Cor 6:12, Eph 5:15-16).

2. **WORLDLY RULES (VS 20-23)**

- A. i. In what ways do you reorient your life due to your having "died with Christ"? (Col 3:1-2, Gal 2:20, Rom 7:4, Eph 4:22-24, Rom 6:11).
- ii. How do you ensure that you are seeking the Holy Spirit's guidance and not relying on your own efforts? (John 14:26; Prov. 3:5-7, Gal 5:16; Rom 12:1-2, 2 Cor 12:9)
- B. In an effort not to hurt other people's feeling, how does one decide whether or not to observe a human tradition in relation to God's expectation? (Mark 7:8-9, Col 2:8-10, 2 Tim 3:16-17, Gal 1:8-9).
- C. i. How will you glorify God with your body? (Mat 5:16, 1 Cor 6:18-20, Rom 12:1, 1 Pet 4:10-11).
- ii. In relation to (i) above, who will you recruit as an accountability partner in this regard?

CONCLUSION:

Some false teachers in Colossae had made the Christian life more complicated than what was required by God. They had added obligations

beyond God's to the Colossian believers. The false teachers had forgotten or altogether disregarded the importance of a connection to Christ, the head of the church. Instead of seeking life in Christ, they vainly sought wisdom through human regulations.

It can be tempting to believe that we don't add anything extra to our faith. Yet, the reality is that we often do. Sometimes, we set explicit or implicit rules on ourselves and, by extension, on other believers. Our observance of these rules or guidelines does not mean that our hearts are automatically more or less holy. But issues arise if we raise these rules to the same level as God's Word. We or other believers may be spiritually harmed.

We should carefully examine our behavior regarding such regulations. Ensure that you first maintain a relationship with Christ, the head of the church. What, after all, can be added to the gospel of salvation through Christ? What more do we need? Only when we accept that Christ's work has accomplished what we needed for reconciliation can we be filled with his wisdom. Ask for the Holy Spirit's guidance to discern whether you are following the world's wisdom or God's wisdom. At the Holy Spirit's leading, we will be free to engage in practices that lead to the glory of God and the edification of other believers. Seek the Head! And heed the Holy Spirit.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Mon, Nov. 13	The Lord's Spirit Brings Freedom	2 Cor.3:12-18
Tue, Nov. 14	Judged by the Law of Liberty	James 2:8-13
Wed, Nov. 15	Proclaim Liberty Throughout the Land	Lev. 25:8-17
Thu, Nov. 16	Jesus Announces Freedom and Release	Luke 4:14-22
Fri, Nov. 17	God Provides and Comforts	Psalms 23
Sat, Nov. 18	Rooted and Built Up in Christ	Col. 2:6-15
Sun, Nov. 19	Hold Fast to Christ	Col. 2:16-23