

In Christ, Legalism Doesn't Make Sense

Colossians 2:16-23

- Legalism makes sense to you naturally.
 - o Legalism is the theory that keeping _____ brings _____
 - o The basis of the theory is _____
- Legalism works in theory but fails in practice.
 - o Why does it fail? People fail. People sin. People cannot adequately _____ for God.
- Grace is God's alternative to legalism.
 - o Grace is _____ favor
 - Eternal salvation is available by God's grace in the gospel (Col. 1:5, Eph. 2:8-9)
 - A God-pleasing life is available by God's grace (Col. 1:10, 2:9-15)
- Colossians 2:16-23 points out the emptiness of three legalistic approaches to spirituality.

A. In Christ, RITUALISM does not make sense. (2:16-17)

Ritualism – Observe religious rituals to get blessings

- What is the instruction of verse 16?
- What kinds of rituals are written about? (v16)
- Why are these God-given rituals not needed for believers in Christ? (v17)

B. In Christ, MYSTICISM does not make sense. (2:18-19)

Mysticism – Seek additional spiritual channels to get blessings

- What is the instruction of verse 18?
- What is the lure of mysticism?
- What is the trap of mysticism?

C. In Christ, ASCETICISM does not make sense. (2:20-23)

Asceticism – Deprive yourself to get blessings

- What is the logical challenge to believers in verse 20?
- What is the lure of asceticism?
- What is the trap of asceticism?

** Do you believe that legalism will work for you?*

** Do you resist empty religion?*