“Warnings About Self-Made Religion Not According to Christ”

Colossians 2:18-23 Sunday February 4, 2024

COMMUNION SUNDAY

## INTRODUCTION READ Colossians 2:1-23 [Pew Bible pg. 925]

People in our culture approaching religion like a buffet . . . pick and choose what I want to eat according to my tastes and appetites, and primary what will satisfy me.

The Teaching in the Book of the Colossians about Christ is altogether different

Our Sufficient Savior: Complete In Christ [vv. 9-11] Union with Him [vv. 11-15]

This chapter presenting warnings of such false teaching [2:4, 8, 16, 18, 20].

The apostle Paul describing The false teachers themselves and their teachings

“Warnings About Empty-Handed Teaching Not Holding to Christ”

1. Empty-Handed Religious Judgments of Legalism 2:16-17

 Weakness of Teachings According to Legalism Works Not Grace

 Judgment of Legalism “Claims There Are More Important Practices”

1. Empty-Handed Religious Ideas of Mysticism 2:18-19
2. Emptiness of Teachings According to Mysticism 2:18

 Indictment of Mysticism “Claims There Are More Important Experiences”

 “Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize . . .” self-appointed

 Cf. 3:15 reality in subjective experience, hierarchy of higher levels

 Experiences Not Truth

four participles here again

1. by delighting in self-abasement and . . .” “insisting his own will”
2. going into detail about *visions* he has seen, “taking his stand”
3. being puffed up for nothing by his fleshly mind, “inflated”

 “boasted that they were guided by the higher reason of their own mind*”*

 1 Corinthians 8:1; 13:4 orientated to self, the physical, this world

1. and not holding fast to the head, cf. 2:8-10
2. Emptiness of Teachings of Mysticism Not Holding To Christ 2:19

 “. . . AND not holding fast to the head . . .” cf. 2:8-10

 from whom the entire body, cf. 1:18, 24

 grows with a growth that is from God. READ Ephesians 4:15-16

 experience of real growth because of God working

 your faith in Christ [1:5] . . . your faith in Christ [2:5]

 if you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast [1:23]

Empty-Handed Religious Judgments of Legalism 2:16-17

Empty-Handed Religious Ideas of Mysticism 2:18-19

1. Self-Made Religious Requirements of Asceticism 2:20-23
2. Seductiveness of Teachings According to Asceticism 2:20-22

“If you have died with Christ . . .” Religions Not Christ

“ . . . why, as if you were living in the world . . .”

 do you submit yourself to decrees: what you do not do

 “Do not handle, nor taste, nor touch”?

 superficial . . . temporal . . . external . . . physical

1. Seductiveness of Teachings Not Being In Christ 2:23

which deal with everything destined to perish with use, persishable

*which are* in accordance with the commands and teachings of men;

 no divine authority and therefore no divine power

 word of men and not the Word of God

which are matters having, to be sure,

a word of wisdom in self-made religion

and self-abasement and severe treatment of the body,

*but are* of no value against fleshly indulgence.

CONCLUSION Warnings About Self-Made Religion

1. Walk in Christ for all Christian practice and Christian obedience
2. Holding Fast to Christ as The Head means not pushing my own rules, insisting my own will, and not teaching my own self [my religion of choice]
3. Having Our Identity In Christ and Holding Fast to Him hearing the warnings of such teachings of men not according to Christ
4. There is no need to pursue added teachings and advanced practices as one holding onto Christ with His teachings and Christian disciplines in Him
5. Confront Pride in our lives because we know the flaws and watch out for the draws of every teaching in our culture not according to Christ
6. Christian Life is not conforming to any religious rules of men but shaped by the glorious Gospel of Christ