



Guard Your Freedom!
Colossians 2:16-23
#6 in a series on Colossians
November 6, 2022
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Theme: **Guard your freedom against man-made freedom killers.**

Guard your freedom against empty ritualism's judgment.

1. Rituals and ritualism.
2. The conditions in Colossae. (16)
3. Paul's response. (17)
4. Our conditions and response.

Guard your freedom against false doctrine's fraud.

1. The conditions at Colossae. (18-19)
2. The conditions today.

Guard your freedom against valueless asceticism's slavery.

1. The asceticism at Colossae. (20-23)
2. The asceticism of today.

In My Life This Week

As you use this daily guide, write out your observations and responses on a separate piece of paper and save them with this sheet for reference.)

Monday. The section we looked at yesterday begins with “Therefore” (2:16). Review 2:6-15 to see what this refers to and summarize why we don’t need any *add-ons* to the faith, as well as why Paul warns about empty ritualism, false doctrine and valueless asceticism.

Tuesday. Paul tells us to guard our freedom against empty ritualism’s judgment. From 2:16 summarize the ritualisms of the false teachers. What is the nature of ritualism, according to verse 17? Are you allowing others to “act as your judge” in areas of freedom based on their ritualisms? Are you acting as anyone’s judge based on your own ritualisms? If so, what are you going to do about that, starting today?

Wednesday. False teaching or doctrine has had a long and devastating history (review Satan’s first approach in Genesis 3:1-7). Go over the false doctrines grounded in false humility, the worship of angels and new *revelation* that Paul notes in verse 18. He said such false teaching comes from people who are “not holding fast” to Christ— they are not truly connected to Christ and His truth. We will always run into false teaching. Hold fast to Christ and the Scriptures, continually growing in your knowledge of Him and His truth, relying on the Holy Spirit to help you discern error from truth.

Thursday. Asceticism, as we used the term on Sunday, refers to practicing strict self-denial, especially in the physical life, with a belief that it frees from sin or brings one closer to God. See 1 Corinthians 9:20-23 for a proper view of self-discipline. Walk through the errors and correction in 2:20-23. Asceticism is without value—it cannot achieve its goal. In fact, it enslaves those who follow it.

Friday/Saturday. On Sunday we plan to look at the first four verses of chapter three. Read through these verses as you prepare for our time together.