



Colossian 2:16—23

Avoiding the decoys

Sunday 2 July 2017

1. Traditions and Religious Rules

v.16 *“Do not let anyone judge you...”*

v.17 *“These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.”*

Sacrificial lambs (Numbers 28: 9, 11)

Free from Burdens

“The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath” (Mark 2:27)

“Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind.” (Rom. 14:5-6)

2. Puffed up leaders and worship of angels

v.18 *“who delight in false humility”*

v.18 *“worship of angels”* – an insult to God

“you have been given fullness of Christ” (Col. 2:10)

v.19 *“He has lost connection with the Head”*

3. Legalism and harsh self-discipline.

v.21 *“Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!”*

“But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out” (1 Cor. 10:13)

v.22 Rules *“all destined to perish”*.

v.23 *“they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence”*

Isaiah 55:1-3 "Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost.

Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labour on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare. Give ear and come to me; hear me that your soul may live.”

Conversation starter:

Have you ever been given something that turned out to be fake?



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Growth Group Questions

You will find it helpful to have heard the talk so why not listen at:

<http://leightonbaptists.org.uk/media-links/current-teaching/>

Some of these questions are personal and others are more general. Feel free to pick and choose which questions your group will find most helpful.

1. Read v.16. Should we care if people judge us?
2. Read Numbers 28:9, 11. Would it matter if a Christian wanted to celebrate some old Jewish festivals? What is the fundamental issue here?
3. Have you ever tried to make up for mistakes you've made? Is it possible?
4. Read Isaiah 64:6. Does this seem harsh or is it really good news?
5. Read Mark 2:27. Do you think Christians should still keep the Sabbath? What different views might there be on this today?
6. Read Romans 14:5-6. Is there a danger of a 'free-for-all' if we just have to 'be convinced in our own minds' that something is right? What else might we need to consider?
7. Read v.18. What is 'false humility'? Why might these same people be tempted to worship of angels?
8. Read v.20-23. Do you ever find setting rules for yourself helps you stay on track? Does it matter if someone else sets the rules for you?
9. Read Galatians 4:21-31. How are our lives meant to be different as 'children of the free woman'? How is following imposed rules different to having 'self-control'? (Gal. 5:22-23.)
10. Is there anything God is prompting you to address, any areas you've been led astray? Take time to encourage and pray for each other.