

Hold Fast to Christ

“Therefore let no one PASS JUDGEMENT ON YOU in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. Let no one DISQUALIFY YOU, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.”

Colossians 2:16-19



“*Therefore,” verse 16, in light of your union with Christ and the glorious reality of what he has done for you on the cross...

*Let no one pass judgment on you...these are a shadow of the things to come but the substance belongs to Christ. “For these rules are only shadows of the reality yet to come. And Christ himself is the reality, verse 17.

“Besides this law, commonly called moral, God was pleased to give to the people of Israel, as a church under age, ceremonial laws, containing several typical ordinances, partly of worship, prefiguring Christ, His graces, actions, sufferings, and benefits; and partly, holding forth divers instructions of moral duties. All which ceremonial laws are now abrogated, under the New Testament.” Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter 19, Article 3

“For since the law is but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near.” Hebrews 10:1

*Let no one disqualify you (sideline, take away your joy and usefulness).

1. Asceticism or supra-biblical rules regarding self-denial.
2. The worship of angels (as intermediaries between a fallen creation and the undefinable but pure Eternal Being).
3. Visions (not anchored in Christ or the apostolic revelation).
4. Arrogance regarding your special standing.

"We must not think Pride is something God forbids because He is offended at it, or that Humility is something He demands as due to His own dignity-as if God Himself was proud. He is not in the least worried about His dignity. The point is, He wants you to know Him: wants to give you Himself. And He and you are two things of such a kind that if you really get into any kind of touch with Him you will, in fact, be humble-delightedly humble, felling the infinite relief of having for once got rid of all the silly nonsense about your own dignity which has made you restless and unhappy all your life. He is trying to make you humble in order to make this moment possible: trying to take off a lot of silly, ugly, fancy-dress in which we have all got ourselves up and are strutting about like the little idiots we are. I wish I had got a bit further with humility myself: if I had, I could probably tell you more about the relief, the comfort, of taking the fancy-dress off-getting rid of the false self, with all its "Look at me" and "Aren't I a good boy?" and all its posing and posturing. To get even near it, even for a moment, is like a drink of cold water to a man in a desert."

C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

1-4 = "not holding fast to the Head."

*The promise: Christ nourishes and knits together the whole body of Christ with a supernatural Spirit empowered growth that comes from God.

Questions for Discussion:

1. What does the "therefore" of verse 16 refer to?
2. How is the Old Testament sacrificial system a shadow of the ultimate reality of Christ?
3. How can we be disqualified or sidelined or joyless or lose our usefulness?
4. What is the end result of tenaciously holding fast to the reality of Christ?

Biblical verses to meditate on and memorize for the month of October:

"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."

Ephesians 2:8-9

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

Romans 12:2