

Sermon Outline

“Don’t Settle for Shadows”

Colossians 2:16-23

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Main Idea:

Because of who Christ is and what He has done for us, we should resist the temptation to find fullness of salvation in anything or anyone other than Jesus Christ alone.

Main Points:

1. Don’t settle for shadows when you have the substance.
2. Don’t be impressed by the super spiritual, but instead hold fast to the Head.
3. Christianity does not consist of what you don’t do—but in your union with Christ.

Key Quotes:

“I was a good monk, and I kept the rule of my order so strictly that I may say that if ever a monk got to heaven by his monkery, it was I. All my brothers in the monastery who knew me will bear me out. If I had kept on any longer, I should have killed myself with vigils, prayers, reading and other work.” – Martin Luther

“They (principalities and powers, rulers of the darkness of this world) are not your boss! Christ is!” - Robin

Fellowship Starters

1. Read Colossians 2:16-23 together.
2. Open in prayer.
3. Paul is going to great lengths to convince the believers in Colossae that just as Jesus lived, died and was raised from the dead, so too have they who have trusted in Christ. Our salvation is complete in Christ. We add nothing to it. To add to it is to distort the gospel and be “kidnapped” or taken “captive.” Discuss the topic of our Union with Christ.
4. Discuss the issue of biblical shadows and how Paul’s teaching about Christ being the substance highlights how we can place too much importance on our own practices rather than in Christ alone.
5. At the same time, being mature in Christ is God’s goal for us, but being “super spiritual” is not. Discuss how the errors behind monasticism/asceticism and/or visions and super-spiritual experiences “have indeed an *appearance of wisdom* in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but *are of no value* in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.” (Col 2:23)
6. End in prayer for one another.