

Colossians 2:16-23

"Legalism, Asceticism, & Mysticism"

Intro: Antinomianism & Legalism

-Antinomianism: Built into dispensationalism with its insistence that each dispensation completely replaces the previous one.

-Our Westminster Confession of Faith: Gets it right when it states that the moral law of God is forever binding upon all people in all ages.

-Our Westminster Confession of Faith: Makes a contrast between the moral law and the ceremonial and judicial laws.

-The false teachers that infiltrated the Colossian church: Advocated legalistic teaching that went over and above the word of God.

* We must reject all legalism, asceticism, and mysticism because they are _____ to the _____ of God and they deny the _____ of Christ.

-The false teachers in Colossae: Advocated a return to the Old Testament laws and ceremonies.

-The two strands of legalism in the New Testament: One is a direct attack upon the gospel and the other attacks the freedoms that come to those who believe the gospel.

-The word translated as "Sabbath": Actually plural and must be translated as 'Sabbaths.'

-Gordon Clark: "The context speaks of food and drink, feasts, and new moons. All this is ceremonial. Then are not the Sabbaths, here condemned, ceremonial Sabbaths, and not the creation ordinance?"

-An example of asceticism from the life of Martin Luther: "I tortured myself with praying, fasting, keeping vigils, and freezing - the cold alone was enough to kill me - and I inflicted upon myself such pain as I would never inflict again, even if I could."

-Charles Hodge (against mysticism): "In no case do we find the apostles calling upon the people, whether Jews or Greeks, to look within themselves, to listen to the 'inner word.' They were to listen to the outward word; to believe what they heard and to pray for the Holy Spirit to enable them to understand, receive, and obey what was thus externally made known to them."

-The worship of angels: Likely started with the faulty notions that people need the angels help and mediation in approaching God.

-The only one who can tell us how to worship God: God Himself.

-Personal Application: