



GOT TRUTH?

Truth & Being Really Sincere

Colossians 2:16-23

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Watch out for Human Judgment (verses 16-19)

1. In verse 16, what is Paul's warning? In verse 18, how does Paul repeat that warning?
2. In these verses what are Paul's examples of what we might be judged by? Are there similarities between them? Are there differences between them?
3. How might it be possible to allow someone to *"pass judgment"* on you? How might it be possible to allow someone to *"disqualify"* you?
4. In verse 18, how does Paul describe the motivation of those judging others? In verse 19, how does Paul contrast their motivation with what should be our focus? How might Paul's description of their motivation help you in knowing whose guidance to listen to as you seek to follow Jesus?
5. In verses 17 and 19, how does Paul bring the focus back to Jesus? How are these truths concerning Jesus particularly relevant to Paul's concern for the Colossians? How might these truths be helpful to you?

Watch out for Living Dead (verses 20-23)

6. How might Paul's question in verse 20 relate to Paul's focus on Jesus in verses 16-19?
7. In verse 20, what does it mean that we have *"died to the elemental spirits of the world"*?
8. How does Paul describe being *"alive in the world"*? What would it be like to live this way?
9. In verse 23, what does Paul mean by *"the indulgence of the flesh"*? According to Paul, will living *"alive in the world"* help us to stop *"the indulgence of the flesh"*? Ultimately, how is *"the indulgence of the flesh"* stopped?
10. How is it possible for us to live in the world even though, in Christ, we have died to it? What possible motivation could we have for living this way?
11. Thinking about the statement, *"Guilt will motivate us for a time, but grace will keep us going forever"*—what does this mean?
12. What motivates you, guilt or grace?
13. Do you ever feel as though your "guilt" outweighs God's grace? How has God responded to your feelings of guilt? (Scripture?)
14. How are you responding to these feelings?
15. How might you encourage others to understand more of God's grace towards them?
16. How might your life be different if you could more fully understand at the heart level God's grace towards you? What steps might you take this week to grow in your understanding of God's grace towards you?