



March 3, 2024

Essential Jesus for Unsettled Days – Wise Freedom

Colossians 2:16-23

Summary: The warning and guarding section of Colossians concludes with three religious traps: legalism, mysticism, and asceticism. Each trap is concluded with a truth to prevent a Christian from these three pitfalls.

Scripture – Leviticus 23; Deuteronomy 16:16; 1 Corinthians 6:12; John 8:32; Acts 15; Galatians 2:21

Community Group Questions

Introduction

- “A good Christian is an oxymoron.”
- Why do Christians judge other Christians? Do we think it will really help save others or ourselves?

Legalism (Col. 2:16-17)

- “They always go back to Moses and beyond the Bible.”
- “To break any law is to break all the laws. It’s a break in the chain.”
- Discuss what it means to be a “shadow saint.”
- “While I admire the Pharisees, Jesus does not.”
- How does legalism nullify the grace of God? (Galatians 2:21)

Mysticism (Col. 2:18-19)

- “My job is to make much of God; not have God make much of me.”
- Paul calls us to be “connected to the Head.” Why is that important?
- Why do you think Pascal and Edwards wrote down their experiences with God and didn’t share it?
- Is there value in not sharing your experiences with God?

Asceticism (Col. 2:20-23)

- Asceticism is defined as “severe self-discipline and avoidance of all forms of indulgence, typically for religious reasons.” How does asceticism appear as wisdom?
- “Satan and his demons love spiritualism because it distracts you from Jesus.”
- How have you fallen into the traps of asceticism?