

TITLE: Colossians (Lesson 9)

TEXT: Col. 2:14-17

INTRO: The danger is real! The Apostle Paul warned the church at Colosse and God is warning us against the dangers of intellectualism, ritualism, and in today's lesson, legalism.

I. What is legalism?

- A. "Legalism—measuring your own or someone else's spirituality by the ability to keep manmade rules—is a rigid, confining, and lifeless way to live." *Max Anders*
- B. "When our spirituality is imposed from outside us, it leads to hypocrisy and legalism." *David Jeremiah*

II. (vs. 14-15) Jesus took care of our sin, the Law and Satan on the cross.

- A. As sinners we owe a huge debt to God.

NOTE: Rom. 3:23; 6:23; Luke 7:41-50

- 1. The Law articulated our offenses.
- 2. The O.T. law *was against us* because we broke it.
- 3. The O.T. law *was contrary to us* because we could not keep it.

- B. Jesus paid our debt on the cross.

NOTE: It was customary to post on the cross the offender's crimes. Matt. 27:35-37

When the Father looked at the cross, He saw an altar on which the Lamb of God died for our crimes (sin). 2 Cor. 5:21

- C. Jesus fulfilled the Law *and took it out of the way*.

NOTE: "You see, the law was given to discipline the old nature. But now the believer is given a new nature, and the law has been removed as a way of life." *J. Vernon McGee*

- D. Satan was defeated at the cross.

NOTE: John 12:31 "Satan cannot harm the believer who will not harm himself." *Wiersbe*

III. (vs. 16) The bondage of legalism.

- A. Food or drink.

NOTE: Mark 7:14-23; Rom. 14:1-4; I Cor. 8:8-13

- B. Special days.

NOTE: Rom. 14:5-23

IV. (vs. 17) Jesus and His work on the cross is the basis of our freedom.

- A. We live under the dispensation of grace.

- 1. The law still has a place in Christian doctrine and practice.

NOTE: I Tim. 1:8-11

- 2. The Law was *a shadow of things to come*.

- B. As Christians we now live to a higher standard.

NOTE: Rom. 6:14-7:6 "Legalism is a popular thing because you can 'measure' your spiritual life—and even brag about it! But this is a far cry from measuring up to Christ!"

*Warren Wiersbe*