

Colossians 2:16-23 (November 19, 2023)
“Set Free in Christ”

SERMON DISCUSSION: How were you impacted by the sermon? What new thoughts or lessons did you discover? In what ways did you find yourself challenged and/or encouraged?

READ Colossians 2:16-23

1. What is Paul’s concern regarding the Colossian believers (Colossians 2:4, 8, 16, 18)? Do you hold the same concern for believers today? Explain.

2. Under the Old Testament covenant, food, drink, festivals, and Sabbath observances were a “shadow of the things to come.” What did Paul mean (Colossians 2:17; Hebrews 10:1, 11-13)? What does this mean for believers (Matthew 5:17; Romans 7:4-6; Galatians 3:24)?

3. What is the image used in Colossians 2:19? How does it describe the church and its growth (Colossians 1:18; Romans 12:3-5)?

4. Recalling previous passages in Colossians, explain Paul's rationale for not submitting to worldly/human regulations that are of no value.

5. Ascetism is "the strict self-denial as a measure of personal and especially spiritual discipline" (Merriam-Webster). Compare Colossians 2:18, 21-23 with Mark 7:14-23) and consider why people so easily fall into the trap of ascetism? Instead of freeing a person from sinful thoughts and desires, what sins may result?

6. From this passage, 1 Corinthians 10:25-26, 31, and Romans 14:6-8, 17-18 share what it means to be set free in Christ. Do you feel you have been set free in Christ? In what ways do you struggle to live as one freed and what helps you remember your freedom in Christ?