

Cheaters

Colossians 2:16-23

Sermon Discussion

The Study

Continuing last week's theme: *Beware of cheating cheaters who would cheat you of your reward!*

There are three warnings in this chapter:

- 1 • (from vs 8 last week) *Let no one take you captive through deceitful philosophy*
- 2 • (vs 16) *Let no one judge you (unfairly)*
- 3 • (vs 18) *Let no one cheat you of your reward*

& Paul describes two groups of cheaters through this passage: JEWISH LEGALISTS & GREEK PHILOSOPHERS (namely: ASCETICS)

16 • The Jewish legalists (aka, "Judaizers") judged Christians for neglecting the Law of Moses: food, drink, festivals, new moons, & sabbaths.

17 • Paul doesn't call these things BAD, but SHADOWS; but Jesus is the true SUBSTANCE!

18 • The Greek Ascetics practiced "False Humility" (vs 23—"self-imposed religion, neglect of the body, etc.)

20-23 • There is some debate over the meaning of "basic principles" which Lance covered last week: either sprits leading to superstitions, or human traditions.

The context says Paul is speaking of human traditions and philosophies that are handed down; not spiritual forces.

But the truth is, when we give them place in our lives, we are listening to satan's lies!

Superstitions are a modern example of this stuff!

23 • "...*These are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh*"

The Discussion

Intro & Review

In last weeks' study, you discussed Cults. This week, Jeff shared a personal experience about this.

Review: Why are cults so effective at leading people astray? What are their tactics?

How did Jeff survive their trickeries?

Vs 8—Beware of someone cheating you through empty, deceitful philosophy...

Hint: 9 • "For in Him _____"

& 10 • "You are _____ in Him"

Explain how vs 9-10 give the solution?

Questions

How does vs 15 (last week) give the believer victory over the legalistic judges?

What are some modern issues of legalism that Christians aren't bound to & why?

How is Jesus the Substance, but the Old Testament only the Shadow? What are some ways is Jesus foreshadowed in the Old Testament?

What is true spirituality, according to vs 19?

How do we do this?

Do superstitions have a place in your life?

Are you afraid to "tempt fate" with certain things?

What should the Christian's attitude be? How can we use them to help us praise God even more?

Legalism, Asceticism, Superstitions—they can't fix humanity's big problem: SIN!

Look ahead to Col. 3:1-5 / What *IS* the solution, and contrast it with man's traditions in ch. 2.