

part 2

Spiritual Detours

Steering Clear of Religious Traditionalism



1. Sort _____ (vv.8, 16-17)

2. Never _____ (vv.9-10)

3. Live _____ (vv.11-15)

Colossians 2:8-17

8 See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.

9 For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, 10 and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority.

11 In him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ, 12 having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.

13 When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, 14 having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. 15 And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

16 Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. 17 These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ. (NIV)

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's message. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's message. It is also helpful to discuss your answers with others.

1. What are some of "Christianity's traditions" that you have been tempted to treat as God's rules?

In what subtle ways have those traditions actually led you to neglect some of God's rules?

2. In what specific ways have you been entangled in the "trappings of Christianity" without grasping the essence of what those "trappings" actually point to?
3. Describe an aspect of your Christian life that has either consciously or unconsciously been an attempt to *earn* more of God's favor.

What would be your reaction to someone who tries to earn your acceptance when they already completely have it?

4. What aspects of your Christian life have become a "box checking" exercise?

What would you say to a Christian who feels like he is "going through the motions" when he does what the Bible says he should do, therefore he is no longer going to do what the Bible says he should do?

5. What difference does it make in your Christian life when you are truly mindful of all that Christ has done on your behalf?

Read through the Bible in a year! Here is this week's schedule.

Sunday

Deut. 3-4 & Luke 2

Monday

Deut. 5-6 & Luke 3

Tuesday

Deut. 7-8 & Luke 4

Wednesday

Deut. 9-10 & Luke 5

Thursday

Deut. 11-12 & Luke 6

Friday

Deut. 13-14 & Luke 7

Saturday

Deut. 15-16 & Luke 8