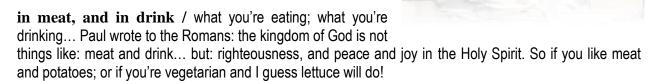


Colossians

Paul just told us that Jesus Christ on His cross... made a show, an open spectacle of the principalities and powers... in the heavenlies... exposing them and making a spectacle out of their rebellion. And whatever that's all about, it indicates that God has got a mess, not only here on earth that He's been dealing with. And he writes...

¹⁶ **Therefore let no one judge you** / let no one judge you; and don't you be about judging others;



let no one judge you / if you like soda or whiskey or wine or beer; or you're just one of those who drinks water! Fine, either way...

let no one judge you / coffee... black; or with Kahlua. Paul says, Don't judge one another.

or holydays, new moon festivals, and of Sabbath days: Enjoy! In the past the people went to Jerusalem 3 times a year: 1. the Festival of Unleavened Bread; 2. The Festival of First Fruits and Harvest, and; 3. The Festival of Ingathering... but the church was on the move doing what Jesus said; taking the Good News to the world... no longer near Jerusalem.

let no one judge you / anyone who does is in rebellion to God's word. And Verse 15 tells us Christ Jesus knows how to handle those in rebellion. He danced on their heads a victory march; and I'm sure He's able to do the same to any peanut-head on earth. Paul says...

of the new moon, or of the Sabbaths / specifically those 7 days that belong to the Lord; they are...

17 shadows of things to come; but Christ / the Greek title for: Messiah... He is the shadow-caster. He is the substance of those shadows. Those shadows point to Him. Moses tells us about those seven (7) great Days in Leviticus 23... called: set-times of the Lord. The Lord set the times; they are appointments He will keep. They are His specific dates; His specific work days. Here Paul tells us: without Jesus, those 7 Days have NO meaning. Four (4) are already fulfilled... by something Jesus did:

- 1. The Day of Passover: when He gave His life... our sacrifice for sin
- 2. The Day of Unleavened bread... when His lifeless body was wrapped and buried in the tomb
- 3. The Day of First-fruits... when Jesus the rose from the dead, according to the promise of the Father
- 4. And The Day of Pentecost... when He sent His Spirit... when the Day of Pentecost had fully come... not a minute too soon; not a minute too late.



And now there are only three (3) more Days... set-times, shadows of things to come, left for Jesus to fulfill:

- 5. The Day of Trumpets... when the trumpets blow and the harvest is lifted up... lifted up to Jesus who is coming for His Church... next
- 6. The Day of Atonement... of afflicting souls; the terrible Day of God's wrath... for the world who did not embrace Jesus' first coming; they did not embrace His substitutionary life and death
- 7. The Day of Booths, the last set-time... the joyous celebration... giving thanks to God our Savior... the great and terrible Day is past; it is over.

Paul was talking about **Jesus...** and **shadows** of **things to come**. So we don't need to create new holidays, but neither does the Church need to ignore these 3 specific Days remaining on His calendar. Those shadows still point to Him... not to people arguing, and certainly not to people judging.

¹⁸ Let no one beguile you / let no one trick or deceive you; to mislead you,

the lunar festival this year begins... Monday at Sunset September 6 2021 Passover Unleavened Bread First Fruits and Pentecost feast of Trumpets Any have opportunity to run the race of faith for yet another year. Bon't presume on Gob. 3 DAY's are still on the LORD's calendar... Shadows of things to come. Shadows of things to come. Fulfilled by Messiah

from receiving your reward.

For example:

in voluntary humility / and appearing humble. F.B. Meyer said, A truly humble man doesn't look back to see if he was. But there are people who will adjudge you saying, You should be more humble. And it's interesting, that humility will always seem to look... like them. They're deceivers. Don't listen to them.

Or... don't be tricked into things like...

worshiping angels / it sounds... freaky! The only angels we meet in Scripture -- those citizens of heaven... don't want to be worshiped. As a matter of fact, the book of Hebrews says... one day they will be our servants. Until then, I'm sure mankind keeps them busy; I don't need to meet any of them.

Paul says... people fascinated by that stuff...

intruding into those things which they have not seen / intruding... they are intruders! The word is: **embateuo**; **invading**... they make hostile incursions. The word can even mean: frequenting your favorite sport; so said differently, going where God has not given permission to go! and carelessly treating God's word like a game. Those who do are vacant-headed,

puffed up by their fleshly mind / inflated fat heads, don't listen to them; run from them! They are deceived, and they'll try to deceive you.



¹⁹ And they are not holding to the Head, from whom all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together / not clinging to the One who is Christ, the Chief, the Boss; not maintaining the order of the body and all its parts in His church that He is building; from whom we are fed and held together in love for each other and rising,

increases with the increase of God / clearly, Paul says: The things we do together participating in the Church are supposed to be building up the Body of Christ. Of Christ... not anyone else! And, because God gives the increase, He gets the glory! He gets to brag!

²⁰ Wherefore / why was all this said? Paul reasons...

if you are dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world / why keep step with the world's boredom, why seek approval and accolades of the angry, dying world; If you are dead to all that, then...

why, as though living in the world, are you subject to ordinances / why all those little rules? that dogma being imposed on you?

²¹ (**Touch not; taste not; handle not)** / those who say: Oh! You shouldn't do this... Oh! That's not nice! Don't drink... don't smoke... don't breathe! Paul answers the self-righteous way of the world and their artificial traditions, preferring their inventiveness over what God has declared; Paul is not promoting anarchy. Paul is NOT promoting the absence of law: we are to do all with love for GOD above all others; and lovingly toward one another, to seek the wellbeing of others.

God values freedom. Many people wonder why God allows people here on earth... to do things like drink and drive and kill others in car crashes every day. Don't blame God. He isn't the idiot who came up with those "fun" ideas. I might like to fly, but His law of gravity still rules, whether or not I like it.

²² which all are to perish with the using / Paul asks ,Why are you subject to little rules? and dogma...

after the commands and doctrines of men? / manmade, artificial rules! Even your leaders do not keep them; prideful leadership always thinks they are above their own laws and rules and regulations.

²³ **which have indeed a show of wisdom** / the guy is a genius... It's mixed with sounding intelligent. It's just a great Hollywood show! It sounds wise! But in reality, it is...

will worship / my performance... my effort... my will be done! Full of false... humility / Paul says,

if worshipping my will... or false humility don't deceive you; then how about...

neglecting of the body / wow! Here the Bible commentators speak about: asceticism, you know that severe neglect and abuse... to the physical body God has given you. Like flagellants in the middle-ages... beating and abusing themselves... and thinking God is impressed. It is not impressive. Neither starvation nor obesity properly impresses. Paul says... let no one deceive you... because ALL that is NOTHING... compared to what JESUS CHRIST did when He substituted His life for us.



Paul says, All that fleshly religiosity may sound wise...and may even appear and look wise

The King James says...

not in any honor to the satisfying of the flesh.

Moffatt says, But they are of no value; they simply pamper the flesh.

John Knox says, They are all forgotten when nature asks to be gratified.

The Companion Bible says, Ascetic observances are of no value as remedies against the old nature.

J.B. Philips says, But in actual practice... they do NO honor, not to God; but to man's own pride.

And quoting Dr. Helmut Thielicke... in his sermon: the Parable of the Wise and Foolish Maidens, he wrote: It may be that in the end, God will have to write beneath the story of our life: A remarkable performance! lively! ... interesting! ... fascinating!

but

You missed the point!

Paul has been talking about: the body of Christ / His Church; and with each of us doing our part, so with Jesus Christ in view... is Paul reminding us to ask ourselves: Have I spiritually fed... or neglected the malnourished Church in the world?

This is My Father's World | Salvation is Your Name

Check out: Our Brothers and Sisters Around The World Singing GOD'S Praise: The Sunglist



The Sheep Hear His Voice And They Follow Him

I Can Only Imagine

