

Title: Break the Rules

Text: Colossians 2:16-3:4

Target: A spirituality that is produced in human effort finds the rewards in the hands of men, not the heart of God.

- I. **The Deception of Legalism:** *“Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath.”* (Vs. 2:16)
 - A. **Definition of Legalism:** Religion of Human Achievement.
 - B. **Doctrine of Legalism:** Earning of God’s Acceptance.
 1. **Dietary Laws:** (Clean, Unclean)
 2. **Festival Events:** (Present/Absent)
 3. **New Moon:** (Give/Keep)
 4. **Sabbath Days:** (Rest/Work)
 - C. **Discernment towards Legalism:** *“These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.”* (Vs. 2:17)

- II. **The Danger in Mysticism:** *“Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind,”* (Vs. 2:18)
 - A. **Definition of Mysticism:** Pursuit of divine experiences subjective to human interpretation.
 - B. **Doctrine of Mysticism:** Only available to the spiritually advanced.
 1. **Worship of Angels:** (Superior than our Savior)
 2. **Visions and Dreams:** (Superior to Scripture)
 - C. **Discernment towards Mysticism:** *“and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.”* (Vs. 2:19)

- III. **The Delusion of Asceticism:** *“If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations—”* (Vs. 2:20)
 - A. **Definition of Asceticism:** Extreme self-denial to attain different levels of spirituality.
 - B. **Doctrine of Asceticism:** Spiritual devotion is measured by physical discipline.
 1. **Abstinence:** *“Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch”* (Vs. 2:21)
 2. **Acceptance:** *“(referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to human precepts and teachings?”* (Vs. 2:22)
 3. **Appearance:** *“These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body,”* (Vs. 2:23a)
 - C. **Discernment towards Asceticism** *“but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.”* (Vs. 2:23b)

- IV. **The Distinction of Spiritualism:** *“If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.”* (Vs. 3:1)
 - A. **Definition of Spiritualism:** The transformation of a life is found in Christ alone by the Holy Spirit.

B. Doctrine of Spiritualism: Revelation from God is always anchored in Scripture.

C. Discernment in Spiritualism: Christ is ENOUGH!

1. **Kingdom Minded:** *“Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.”* (Vs. 3:2)
2. **Kingdom Grounded:** *“For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.”* (Vs. 3:3)
3. **Kingdom Centered:** *“When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory”* (Vs.3:4)

Takeaway: Are we HIDDEN in Christ or are we HIDING Christ?