

[The Book of Colossians](#)  
Chapter 2  
**“Don’t Get ripped Off”**

Return To  
All Commentary

There was once a young man that was walking home from work one night when he was suddenly flanked by two rough looking young men.

**“Give me your Wallet”**

“No”

**“This is a gun, give me your wallet or I’ll shoot you”**

“No”

**“Hey man, you don’t understand were robbing you, Give me your Wallet”**

“No”

**“Give me your wallet of I’ll knife you”**

“No”

**Give me your Wallet of we will beat you up”**

“No”

By now the Robber was whining as he gave his commands.

“No”:, the young man continued as he walked. After awhile he noticed that he was no longer being pursued by the robbers.

**“Weren’t you scared”**, he was asked by his friend once he was home?”

“Of course I was Scared”

**“Well, why then didn’t you just give him your wallet?”**

“My Learners permit was in it!”

**This young man knew what was valuable to him, so he wan’t going to let anyone  
“Rip Him Off”**

This is the major point of Colossians chapter 2, Know what is yours, and don't let anyone Rip you off from your reward...

1 For I want you to know what a great **conflict** I have for you and those in Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh,

**Conflict:** Greek “Agion”, Where we get our English word “Agony”.

1. **Paul literally agonized** over the Christians there in the area of Colosse.
2. **This is to be the attitude** that we are to have for each other:
  - **We agonize before the Lord over our concern for each others walk** with Jesus, bringing each other to the Lord in prayer. That Jesus would strengthen and sustain those fellow believers we have in our life.
  - **We agonize over the struggles** that we see a fellow Christian go through. Whether it is with Sin, or the Flesh or some other trial or difficulty.
  - **We agonize over our own weaknesses**, and powerlessness in and of ourselves. We see ourselves as no better than any other person, only Jesus made the difference in our life.
  - **We agonize over broken fellowship between us and other believers** or if we other believes that have fallen out of fellowship with each other or their church fellowship.

**We Agonize over these things, because if we really do belong to Jesus, then we will want to see verse 2 happen...**

2 that **their hearts may be encouraged**, being **knit together in love**, and **attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding**, to **the knowledge of the mystery of God**, both of the Father and of Christ,

**If we agonize over our personal and others personal relationship with Jesus, then we will want:**

1. **Their hearts to be encouraged.** Is this your desire, that those that say they are following Jesus are encouraged? Is there something that you can do to play a part in their being encouraged?
2. **That their hearts would be knit together in love.** This is the process whereby those that believe in Jesus work on their relationship with each other. This can only happen if they spend quality time together frequently. Is it a priority for you to search out and seek fellowship with other believers as often as possible. Do you actively work on your relationships with other believers, so that your hearts are “Knit together in Love”.
3. **Attaining to all of the full assurance of understanding.** Do you desire that the other believers in your life attain a knowledge and assurance of who Jesus is, what He has done, and the hope of what is in our future? It is each of our responsibility to help each other attain this full assurance and knowledge.

4. **To the knowledge of the Mystery of God.** We learned in chapter one of Colossians that the “**Mystery of God**” is that Jesus lives in us, who have given our lives to Him. Do you remind yourself and other believers that the source of power, love and the ability to live the life of a follower of Jesus is all possible because Jesus lives in us?

**These are some of the things that are not being taught in Jesus church today, that we need to be reminded of:**

- **It is all of our responsibility** to constantly be helping each other to grow in our knowledge of Jesus.
- **It is all of our responsibility** to seek actively, fellowship with each other, so that we can knit our hearts together.
- **If the church doesn't have an even planned** where you can spend time with other believers, you plan something, get people together so that relationships can develop and grow.
- **It is all of our responsibility to remind each** other that Jesus lives in us and is our Power and hope.

### **Colossians 2:3**

3 in *Jesus* are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

**This is a confirmation again of the fact that Jesus is the One God of the universe, Creator and Sustainer of everything.**

1. **The Bible declares** that **Jesus** is God.
2. **The Bible declares** that The **Father** is God.
3. **The Bible declares** that The **Holy Spirit** is God.
4. **The Bible declare** that **these Three are the One God** of the Universe.

**Here, as a confirmation that Jesus is God, the Bible declares that “All The treasures of wisdom and knowledge, Jesus has.**

1. **This means that Jesus knows everything.** There is not anything that He does not know.
2. **There is nothing** that Jesus has to learn.
3. **Only God can declare this.** What makes God, God, is that He knows everything, we call this “**Omniscience**”.
4. **Some have asked:** “Why then did Jesus say that there were something that He did not know...”

### **Matthew 24:36** Jesus speaking of the Rapture of the Church:

“But **of that day and hour no one knows**, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.

### **Mark 13:32** Mark Adds:

“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, **nor the Son**, but only the Father.

### **Philippians 2:5-8**

5 Let this mind be in you which was also in **Christ Jesus**,  
6 who, **being in the form of God**, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,  
7 but **made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant**, and coming in the likeness of men.  
8 And being found in appearance as a man, **He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death**, even the death of the cross.

### **Matthew 20:27-28**

27 And **whoever desires to be first** among you, let him be your slave—  
28 **just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve**, and to give His life a ransom for many.

1. **Jesus Set aside, for a specific period of time** while He came to die for us, some of His power and rights as God.
2. **Jesus made Himself**, notice, He made Himself, “**Of no reputation, and He made Himself a Servant.**”
3. **Jesus came to submit His life as our Savior, to the Father**, placed himself under the authority of the Father, so that he could be our servant and save us.
4. **After Jesus was raised from the dead**, He restored to Himself, all of His rights and powers.
5. **Today Jesus does know what day and hour He will come for us.**
6. **There is nothing** that Jesus does not know, because He is God.

This morning, you like Jesus, when you don't know what is going to happen tomorrow, or for that matter even today, you can commit all of your ways to Jesus, because he knows what is going to happen.

**Even as Jesus submitted His life to the Father, now today, you are to commit your life to the Father, through Jesus.**

1. **If you will commit your life to Jesus this morning**, He will guide you along the right path.
2. **When you find yourself in a situation** where you do not know what to do, Jesus will guide you, if you ask Him.
3. **He can do this**, and you can have confidence in Jesus ability to do this, because of what verse 3 says: “**All Wisdom and Knowledge are hidden in Jesus**”.

### **Colossians 2:4**

4 Now this I say lest anyone should deceive you with persuasive words.

**Now, having encouraged us to commit ourselves to Jesus and the directing of our lives by Jesus because only He has all wisdom and knowledge....**

1. **Paul warns us to be careful** of the worlds wisdom and knowledge.
2. **Human understanding and reasoning**, mans thoughts, mans way of doing things, understanding things, seeing things.
3. **Why in the world would we want to listen** to another person who doesn't even know what is going to happen to himself in 5 seconds?
4. **Why do we take advice from people** when we can get our wisdom direct from the source?
5. **"All wisdom and knowledge are hidden in Jesus"**

**One of the important purposes of the Bible, is for the revealing of prophecy.**

1. **Some people discount biblical prophecy** as having a low importance.
2. **God gave prophecy to us, so that He could prove to you that He is who He claimed to be.**
3. **They did a survey years ago** about the success rate of Psychics and those who claim to predict the future.
4. **At the end of the study they concluded** that the success rate of those who claim to be able to predict the future, **is less than 50%.**
5. **This means that** "You too can be a psychic". Because if you just guess, you are going to be right about 50% of the time.
6. **The success rate** of those who claim to be psychics or predictors of the future, is less than 50%!
7. **The average person going down the street** is capable of predicting the future as well as any person today who claims to have psychic ability.

**The Bible claims to be 100% accurate 100% of the time.**

1. **In fact, the bible says that if any person claims to predict the future**, and misses in their prediction, **even in the slightest**, "They are a False Prophet".
2. **In order to be truly from God**, it must be accurate 100% of the time.

### **Deuteronomy 18:20-22**

20 But any prophet who claims to give a message from another god or who falsely claims to speak for me must die.'

21 **You may wonder, 'How will we know whether the prophecy is from the LORD or not?'**

22 **If the prophet predicts something in the LORD's name and it does not happen, the LORD did not give the message.** That prophet has spoken on his own and need not be feared.

**But also notice that even if the prediction comes true, if that person says anything that would lead you to do or believe anything different from what the Bible says or leads you to worship anything except Jesus, you are not to listen to that person!!!**

### Deuteronomy 13:1-3

1 “If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and **he gives you a sign or a wonder,**  
2 **and the sign or the wonder comes to pass,** of which he spoke to you, saying, “**Let us go after other gods**”—which you have not known—‘and let us serve them,’  
3 **you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the LORD your God is testing you** to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

One purpose of Bible prophecy, is that you might know that the God of the Bible is the only true and living God.

### Romans 4:17

“...God, who gives life to the dead and **calls those things which do not exist as though they did...**”

In the book of Deuteronomy, the Lord said that the fact that He spoke ahead of time that the nation of Israel would be taken captive into Egypt for 430 years was a sign that “The LORD is God and there is none besides Him”.

### Deuteronomy 4:34-35

34 Or did God ever try to go and take for Himself a nation from the midst of another nation, **by trials, by signs, by wonders, by war, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, and by great terrors, according to all that the LORD your God did for you in Egypt** before your eyes?

35 To you it was shown, **that you might know that the LORD Himself is God; there is none other besides Him.**

1. **Daniel 9:** God predicted the exact day that Jesus would ride into Jerusalem on **April 6, 32 A. D. as our Savior. 173,880** days after Artaxerxes king of Babylon gave the command for the Jews to return from Babylon back to their own land in Israel.
2. **In 300 Specific and detailed Old Testament prophecies,** God told us exactly who His Savior for us would be. Jesus fulfilled every one of these **300** prophecies, perfectly. The odds of any one person in all of human history being able to fulfill just **48 of these 300 prophecies is 1 to the 48<sup>th</sup> power.** That is a **1 with 48 Zeros behind it.** That number is larger than all of the estimated ATOMS in the UNIVERSE! (*Science Speaks, Peter Stoner*)
3. **God Called King Cyrus,** a pagan king, by name, 150 years before he was born, told Him that he would be used by the Lord to free His people.
4. **God spoke the exact day** that Israel would be released from Egypt, **430 years** after Joseph entered Egypt. (Genesis 15:13, Exodus 12:41)
5. **God spoke the exact day that Israel would be released** from their captivity in Babylon, **70 years.** (Daniel 1:1, Ezra 1:1-3)
6. **God spoke the exact day that Israel would be gathered** back into their own land, on **May 15, 1948.**
7. **2,000 years** after the nation of Israel was scattered all over the face of the earth in **70 A.D.** God said that **907,200 days** after their captivity in Babylon in the **Spring of**

**530 B.C.** , they would come back into their land. That date was **May 15, 1948, 2,483.6 Calendar Years later!** (Grant Jeffrey, Armageddon, Earth's Last Days, pp 38-40, Ezekiel 4:3-6)

### God spoke His prophetic Word:

1. **So that you would know** that only He has the ability to tell you what is going to happen in the future.
2. **So that you don't get trapped** by what Paul is saying here in Colossians 2"

### **Colossians 2:4**

4 Now this I say lest anyone should deceive you with **persuasive words**.

### Four verses farther down, He gives us a little more detail:

### **Colossians 2:8**

Beware lest anyone cheat you through **philosophy** and **empty deceit**, according to the **tradition of men**, according to the **basic principles of the world**, and **not according to Christ**.

### We will cover this is more detail in just a moment...

### **Colossians 2:5**

5 For though I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in spirit, **rejoicing to see your good order** and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.

### Apparently, this church at Colosse was one that was very orderly.

1. **Jesus is a God of order and design**, He created His church to also be Descend and in order.
2. **When you go into some church services** there is so much noise and activity going on, you cannot worship during the music, you cannot focus on the Word of God during the teaching.'
3. **We have sought to model Calvary Chapel** as a church like this one here in Colosse, one that is orderly.
4. **When you can come into the sanctuary and it is quiet and calm, comfortable and without distraction, you are blessed**. This is why we ask you to take your children to children's church. Kids are just naturally more vocal and active. They have about 2 minutes of attention span per year of the child. So a child of 2 or 3 can only sit still for about 5 or 6 minutes.
5. **When the kids are being ministered to in their own service**, the adults can sit undistracted here in the sanctuary and enjoy the worship and the teaching.
6. **This is why we ask you, if you must leave the sanctuary** during the service, **that when you return you sit at the last row**, so that you don't distract those who are seeking to listen, by walking through the sanctuary.

This was the kind of church that Paul described Colosse here, “I rejoice to see your good order...”.

### **Colossians 2:6**

6 **As you** therefore **have received Christ Jesus** the Lord, so **walk in Him**,  
7 **rooted** and **built up** in Him and **established in the faith**, as you have **been taught**,  
**abounding** in it **with thanksgiving**.

This is one of those verses that has so much in it that you could spend a whole study just on one verse:

1. **“As you have received Jesus, walk in Him.”** The first question is: **“Did you Receive Jesus?”** God provided a way that you could be forgiven of every wrong thing that you have done in your life, in one instant. When you receive Jesus as your Savior, He not only forgives you of every wrong, He make you totally righteous, and give to you Eternal life. Those who receive Jesus into their hearts live forever!
2. **Rooted, Built up and Established: A tree and the fruit that it is able to bear, is determined by the root system it has.** If the roots go deep enough and reach the right kind of nourishment, they will grow strong and tall and produce awesome fruit. If the Roots are shallow and tap into junk, then only junk can come out of the tree.

Jesus said:

### **John 15:5**

“I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing

**What kind of roots do you have in your life right now? If they go deep into the world, then you will never be able to bear any fruit for Jesus.**

But if your roots go down into Gods Word, then you will have an unlimited supply of everything that you need for your life. You will bear much fruit for Jesus.

3. **“As you have been taught”**: It is an interesting thing in life, that “You can only draw from what you have been given”. If you have been taught only the things that man says are wise, then you will be very limited in your understanding of the way that God works, or even who He is.
4. **If you have been taught the Word of God**, then you will be growing in your awareness of How God works in your life. You will find that you are gaining more peace and satisfaction in your life. You will find that you are becoming more like Jesus every year.

Oswald chambers who wrote **“My Utmost for His Highest”** said: “Growth is measured by your sensitivity to sin”

If it bothers you more and more when you or the world sins, then you are really growing.

In May of 1855, an 18 year old boy went to the deacons of a Church in Boston.

He knew almost nothing about what the Bible taught, or about who Jesus is.

He began to attend a Bible teaching church, while there he was asked by one of the members of that church if he “**Knew what Jesus had done for him?**”

His reply: “**Nothing in particular that I can think of..**”

They enrolled this young man in a year long teaching program where this young man would be taught the Bible verse by verse.

Over the years that followed, this young man became the Dwight L Moody that founded the Moody bible institute”, and became one of the most effective servants of the Lord in the churches history.

### **Colossians 2:8**

8 Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

**As I told you earlier, there is a wisdom that is in this world that comes from man, It is his way of understanding the world around him.**

1. **The problem is** that man doesn't know what is going to happen 5 seconds from now, much less tomorrow or any time into the future.
2. **What sets the Lord apart from us** is that “**There is nothing that He doesn't know**”.
3. **Because God dwells outside of time**, everything has already happened for Him. It is not as if He knows the future, It is that He has already been there and seen the future, because He created it.
4. **Most often, I have discovered**, that just about anything that man says to do or think, **if you did the opposite of that, you would find this was Gods way.**
  - **How many men** would design a plan of salvation where you had to die for the worst criminal in the universe?
  - **How many men would allow themselves** to be beaten nearly to death, harassed, ridiculed and abused to save a bunch of selfish, murderous ungrateful beings?
  - **How many men would teach that the greatest in the universe** is the one that serves everyone else.
  - **How many would teach that true love** is the total pouring out of your life, for someone else?

Never, Nada, not in a million years.

## Mans number one selling New York times Best sellers list includes:

### 90's

- Sex, Madonna
- Without Remorse
- Bad as I Wanna Be

### 80's

- No time for Tears
- Masters of the Game
- My Way, By Frank Sinatra
- Wealth Without Risk
- Miss Piggy's Guide to Life

### 70's

- I'm Ok, Your O.K.
- Winning through Intimidation.
- The Ascent of Man
- How to save your own Life
- Pulling your own strings
- Looking out for # 1

## Colossians 2:8

8 Beware lest anyone cheat you through **philosophy** and **empty deceit**, according to **the tradition of men**, according to the **basic principles of the world**, and not according to Christ.

1. **The authority** on every subject in this world is **God's Word**.
2. **It is Eternal**, Mans word changes every 5 seconds.
3. **If you listen to man and his answers for life**, you will cheat yourself out of life's best.

**Philosophy:** Seeks to rationalize man's terrible behavior, teach you that man is inherently good. God's Word says that man is inherently bad, totally lost and without hope, apart from Jesus sacrifice covering mans sin and making Him into a new creation.

**Empty deceit:** Man tells you that if you chase after material wealth and possessions you will be happier. Those that have done so have always come up empty and disappointed.

**The Traditions of man:** Tell you that "**This is the way that we have always done it, so don't buck tradition**" I have a challenge for you, challenge any church tradition, see if it lines us with what the Bible says, if it doesn't "**CHUCK IT**".

**Basic Principles Of The World:** I'm O.K., Your O.K.. We are evolving into higher life forms, Mans basic problem is that there is an unfair distribution of wealth, if you just had more and a better environment, the world would be O.K.

**According to Christ:** God Loves you, has always loved you. Knew from the beginning of time, that you were lost with no hope of saving yourself. He gave His son to die in your place, Jesus Rose form the dead to defeat death forever, Makes those who believe into brand new creatures, who live forever, Jesus now lives inside of everyone who believes. Is coming back again to judge the world for its sin, all those who have accepted Jesus sacrifice there is no judgment for sin, it already happened on the Cross.

### **Colossians 2:9**

9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;

10 and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

1. **Inside the body of Jesus, the man,** lives Jesus the God of the Universe, creator of all that exists.
2. **You are complete if you are in Jesus this morning.** There is nothing else that you have to do to be perfectly righteous forever, except that Jesus died for you and rose from the dead.
3. **Jesus is the Boss of the whole universe,** when he sets you free, you are free indeed, When He saves and forgives you, you are saved and forgiven forever, end of the story.

### **Colossians 2:11**

11 In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ,

**In Israel, a baby was circumcised on his 8th day as a sign of his family's believe in the God of the bible.**

1. **Today, the cutting of the flesh that the Lord is looking for from you, is the cutting away of the hardness of your heart,** and opening up of your inner self to believe and accept Jesus died for you and that he Loves You..
2. **God is looking for changed hearts,** not cutting of the flesh

### **Colossians 2:12**

12 buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

**When Jesus died on that Cross, Your old life also died with Him, unless of course you are continuing to try and raise the old life back up again.**

1. **What saved you,** is your trust in Jesus, nothing else that you have done.'
2. **It was not "With Hands"**, in other words, any work you did or any other person did, that made you righteous, it was the precious blood of Jesus that cleansed you.
3. **Even Baptism does not save a person.** Water baptism is an outward sign of something that has happened on the inside of a person. It is ia public declaration that a

person is going to follow Jesus and that they are turning their back on the old life they used to live. It is a statement by the one being baptized that they are going to live a new life that is led by the Spirit.

### **Colossians 2:13-14**

13 And you, being **dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh**, **He has made alive** together with Him, having forgiven you **all** trespasses,  
14 having **wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us**, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having **nailed it to the cross**.

**When Nicodemus came to Jesus late at night to ask Him who He was, Jesus told him that He did not come to condemn us, but to save us, because we were already condemned.**

1. **When Jesus came for us, our situation was hopeless.** There was no person on the earth that was righteous enough to take our place of punishment.
2. **In Revelation chapter 5** the cry went out from heaven: “Who is worth to take the scroll from the One who sits on the throne...” The scroll was the redemption certificate for all of the people of the earth, the provisions to fulfill it. Jesus stepped forward and was proclaimed “Worthy to redeem us”.
3. **Verse 13 says that we have been forgiven** “ALL” of our Trespasses. What does that leave out that was not forgiven...NOTHING!
4. **Verse 14: at the Cross**, every wrong of every person that has ever been born was nailed to Jesus and paid for.

### **Colossians 1:15**

15 Having disarmed principalities and powers, **He made a public spectacle of them**, triumphing over them in it.

**1 Corinthians says that when Jesus died on the Cross, it caught Satan and the principalities and powers of the demonic world by surprise. They were not expecting that Jesus would die for the sins of the world and then be raised again...**

### **1 Corinthians 2:7-8**

7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, **the hidden wisdom** which God ordained before the ages for our glory,  
8 which **none of the rulers of this age knew**; for had they known, **they would not have crucified the Lord of glory**.

### **Colossians 2:16-17**

16 So let **no one judge you in food or in drink**, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths,  
17 which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.

**Because we believe that Jesus sacrifice for us cleanses us from all sin, it means that we exist today as perfect spotless beings in the sight of the Father.**

1. **It means** that we are free.
2. **It means that all things are lawful for us**, we are not under any law anymore.
3. **But real freedom** is the ability to choose not to do anything that is not helpful.

### **1 Corinthians 6:12**

**All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful.** All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any

1. **If a person uses their freedom** that Jesus died to give them only to do whatever they want to, they take advantage of Jesus Mercy and Grace.
2. **If a person really understands** what Jesus has done for them and how much It cost Jesus, they will use their new freedom for Righteousness.
3. **If you have to ask, “Is it O.K. for a Christian to do \_\_\_\_\_?”**, then the chances are, you are looking for an excuse to do what you want.

Here in verse 17 we discover that all of the feasts and holidays that the Bible calls for, were really just “Shadows” of the things that are coming once Jesus returns for us.

All of the things that are in the Bible have just one purpose, to point you to Jesus!

### **Colossians 2:18**

18 **Let no one cheat you of your reward**, taking delight in **false humility** and **worship of angels**, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,

Again, continuing on his desire to make sure that no one “Rips you off” from the reward Jesus has for all those who stay faithful, Paul continues to warn us.

1. **False Humility:** “**Oh no thank you for your comments, but I am not worthy of any praise...it all goes to Jesus.**”
2. **Now depending on the attitude that is behind that statement**, it was either True Humility or False Humility.
3. **False Humility** is where the person acts or speaks humbly, **but in reality the humbleness is just to get the praise or the attention**, either way Jesus knows which one it is!

The Worship of angels is a practice that has greatly increased in the last 100 years.

1. **There is a television show** called “**Touched by an Angel**”, that on the surface seems like a Christian and Family program.
2. **In reality** it encourages the worship and reliance upon angels, not the worship of Jesus.
3. **I have watched the show several times**, and it has a good family theme, but I have never heard the name of Jesus be proclaimed, worshipped or lifted up.
4. **That is because the name of Jesus** is an offense in Holly weird.

### Colossians 2:19

19 and not **holding fast to the Head**, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase that is from God.

**This is my primary goal as your pastor, to teach that we are to Hold fast to Jesus and nothing else.**

1. **From Jesus** is where we get everything that we need, our **nourishment**.
2. **From Jesus**, we are **knit together in love**.
3. **From Jesus** we **grow and are changed** from the inside
4. **From Jesus** We **increase and move out** into our community and our world.

20 Therefore, **if you died with Christ** from the basic principles of the world, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations—

21 “**Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle,**”

22 which all concern things which perish with the using—according to the commandments and **doctrines of men?**

23 These things indeed **have an appearance of wisdom** in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.

### Good question...

1. **Since we are really dead**, why then do we put ourselves back under the law.
2. **Why do we act like the rest of the world**, going along with everything that they do, if we are not citizens of this planet?
3. **Why do we tell people all the additional things** that they have to do to be saved when Jesus said that all we had to do was believe He paid it all for us?
  - Don't eat certain foods.
  - You must go to church on Saturday.
  - If you are not baptized at our church you cannot be saved.
  - If you do not speak in tongues you cannot possibly be saved.
  - If you have been divorced you cannot serve Jesus in leadership.

**All of these things are “The traditions of Men”**, the bible doesn't teach them, men made them up to fit their idea of what Christians should do.

**But here Paul says, “they are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh”...**

**It is interesting to me** that those that put themselves and seek to put others under the Law, **are always seeking to see how much they can get away with without breaking the law.**

**Those who are led by the Spirit** and are motivated by their love and personal relationship with Jesus, **everything they do, or don't do is just because they love Jesus.**

**May you walk next week to please the Lord because you love Him**, not because you are trying to make Him love you more if you are good enough.