

LESSON 6
COLOSSIANS 2:16-23

Review your memory verses from Colossians. (You can do this by writing them out or saying them to yourself or someone else.)

1. The purpose of memorizing Scripture is to have it available to remind ourselves (and others) of God's truth so that we can have righteous (Christ-like) behavior and attitudes. Therefore, give an instance where you remembered one of these verses and it encouraged you in godliness. (If you're alert, I'm certain there will be many opportunities this very week.)

Memorize Colossians 2:9, 10. Say it to someone.

Read Colossians 2 and 3 twice.

Read Colossians 2:16-23.

2. In this section of Colossians Paul is warning against three types of false teaching. What were they?
 - a) In verses 16 and 17 (See Mark 7:18, 19; Hebrews 9:8-10; Mark 2:27, 28.) –

 - b) In verses 18 and 19 –

 - c) In verses 20-22 –

3. In what way were the Mosaic regulations a "shadow" of Christ? (Hebrews 9 and 10 will help.)

4. In verses 18 and 19 what does it mean that they were *not holding fast to the head?* (NASB) or *lost connection with the Head* (NIV)? (Check Colossians 1:18.)

9. Now for us! What ways today do Christians try to find spirituality through these false methods?
10. Please explain why the principle in verse 23 is true. That is, why won't severe treatment of the body check fleshly indulgence? (Or will it?) Give some examples, if you can.
11. Notice that verse 16 begins with "therefore." When you see a "therefore," you know that a conclusion is to follow on the basis of information just given. What truths just before verse 16 lead to Paul's reasoning about ritualism, mysticism and asceticism?
12. Which of the three above cause *you* to stumble? Explain.
13. *When* does this stumbling happen? (It could be when you see others doing something you wouldn't, it could be when you see others *not* doing something you do; it could be when you hear of another's fantastic "experience" or it could be ____? Think about it. *Remember* that asceticism is *man-made* rules.)

14. These restrictions are destructive because they lead to pride (verse 18) and keep our focus off important issues (verse 20). They are also ineffective (verse 23). How will remembering Colossians 2:9-10 prevent you from putting these restrictions on yourself? On others?