

## *Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes*

**Sermon Notes for May 17-18, 2003**

**Gerry Andersen**

**"Let No One Defraud You"**

**Colossians 2:16-23**

Colossians 1 grounds the church in truth, Colossians 2 guards the church from error.

Delude (2:4) speaks to our inclination to being led astray. Deception (2:8) speaks of the inaccuracy that leads us astray. Defraud (2:18) speaks of the infliction that occurs from people who lead us astray.

### **1. The Problem of Legalism (2:16-17)**

A. The Exhortation: "Let no one act as your judge"

Legalism is when people exalt their opinions to the place of the Word of God.

B. The Explanation: Why legalism is wrong

1) Legalism results in wrongly condemning people for something that God allows.

We cannot control what people think, but we can prevent their false condemnation from causing us to feel guilty.

2) It guides people away from the substance of Christ

- In regards to what we consume (Matthew 15:11)
- In regards to what we consecrate (Mark 2:27)

The reason to "let no one act as your judge" is that we have been released from the Law (Romans 7:6).

*Legalism destroys the faith!*

### **2. The Problem of Mysticism (2:18-19)**

A. The Exhortation: "Let no one keep defrauding you"

Mysticism is when people exalt their experiences to the place of the Word of God.

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B. The Explanation: Why mysticism is wrong

- 1) In supposed humility, it is prideful.
- 2) In supposed spirituality, it is fleshly.
- 3) In supposed union with Christ, it has departed.
- 4) In supposed unity with the church, it is divisive.

*Mysticism divides the flock!*

### **3. The Problem of Asceticism (2:20-23)**

A. The Exhortation: "Why do you submit yourself?"

Asceticism is when people exalt their restrictions to the place of the Word of God.

B. The Explanation: Why asceticism is wrong

- 1) We have died with Christ
- 2) It is the world's way
- 3) It emphasizes what is temporary
- 4) It only appears wise and godly
- 5) It is false humility
- 6) It is of no value in the pursuit of holiness

*Asceticism develops the flesh!*