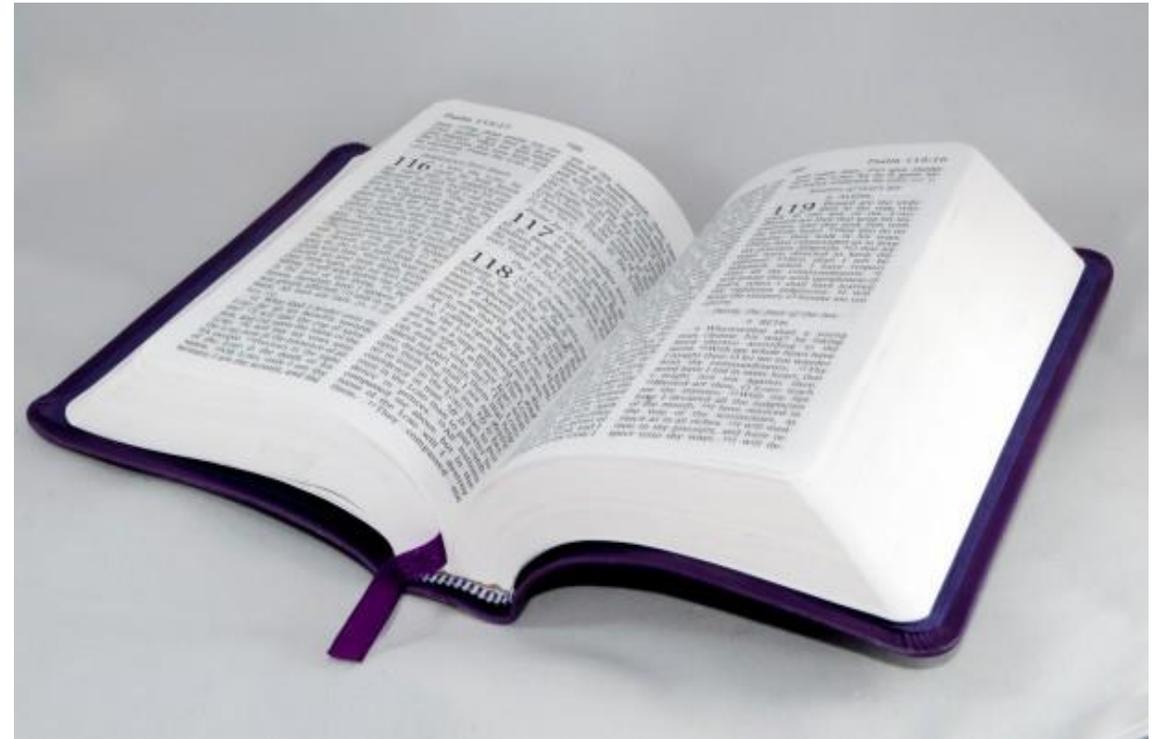


BIBLE STUDY

**HILL CHAPEL
BAPTIST CHURCH
ATHENS**



BIBLE STUDY



WITH PASTOR BENJAMIN E.V. LETT

LESSON 7

Don't Be
Intimidated!
(Colossians 2:16-23)



Colossians 2:16-19

16 Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. 17 These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ. 18 Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you. Such a person also goes into great detail about what they have seen; they are puffed up with idle notions by their unspiritual mind. 19 They have lost connection with the head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow.

Colossians 2:20-23

20 Since you died with Christ to the elemental spiritual forces of this world, why, as though you still belonged to the world, do you submit to its rules: 21 “Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!”? 22 These rules, which have to do with things that are all destined to perish with use, are based on merely human commands and teachings. 23 Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.

INTIMIDATION

- ❖ What is intimidation?
- ❖ Have you ever felt intimidated?
- ❖ Have you ever felt intimidated by someone else's religious beliefs and practices?
 - What made you feel that way?
- ❖ Has anyone tried to make you feel intimidated by their religious beliefs
 - What did they do or say to make you feel that way?



DON'T BE INTIMIDATED

By Legalism

By Mysticism

By Asceticism

1. DON'T BE INTIMIDATED BY LEGALISM

Colossians 2:16-17

16 Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. 17 These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.

The five items mentioned in verse 16 were all a part of the legalism of Judaism:

food – drink – festivals – new moon – Sabbath

Colossians 2:16-17

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- ❖ food and drink
- food and drink fell under two categories – clean and unclean
 - not because of health reasons

Declaring food as clean or unclean taught spiritual truths fulfilled in Christ: therefore these restrictions were abolished

What goes into someone's mouth does not defile them, but what comes out of their mouth, that is what defiles them" (Matthew 15:11).

Colossians 2:16-17

16 Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. 17 These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.

- ❖ *festivals*: a Jewish feast
- ❖ *New Moon celebration*: monthly celebration on the lunar calendar
- ❖ *a Sabbath*: weekly observance of the sabbath, from sundown Friday to sundown Saturday

These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ (v.17).

Colossians 2:16-17

16 Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. 17 These are a **shadow** of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.

- ❖ *shadow*: not to be confused with substance – temporary – vague representation of the real
- ❖ Clinging to the Old Testament prophetic shadows of Christs takes away from the spiritual reality of the complete reality of Christ.

Legalism

LEGALISM

Let's talk about it



A LESSON ON LEGALISM

LUKE 18:9-14

⁹ To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: ¹⁰ “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’ ¹³ “But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’ ¹⁴ **“I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”**

2. DON'T BE INTIMIDATED BY MYSTICISM

Colossians 2:18-19

18 Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you. Such a person also goes into great detail about what they have seen; they are puffed up with idle notions by their unspiritual mind. 19 They have lost connection with the head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow.

MYSTICISM

Mysticism teaches that doctrines or messages from God can be received through meditation, dreams, or visions. Believing that one can be connected to God and know God's will by way of knowledge, or thought that may be attained through contemplation and self-surrender.

2. DON'T BE INTIMIDATED BY MYSTICISM

Colossians 2:18-19

18 Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you.

In Paul's day, false teachers were saying God could not be approached directly through Christ but only through certain angles.

Jesus: "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves (Matthew 7:15)."

3. DON'T BE INTIMIDATED BY ASCETICISM

Colossians 2:18, 20-23

18 Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you.

20 Since you died with Christ to the elemental spiritual forces of this world, why, as though you still belonged to the world, do you submit to its rules: 21 “Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!”? 22 These rules, which have to do with things that are all destined to perish with use, are based on merely human commands and teachings. 23 Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.

ASCETICISM

Asceticism: voluntary humility

the practice of the denial of physical or psychological desires in order to attain a spiritual ideal or goal.

Ascetics teach or emphasize that spirituality is measured by things you give up, not by what you do.

3. DON'T BE INTIMIDATED BY ASCETICISM

How does the practice of fasting relate to this?

Denying oneself of food is not fasting. The denying oneself of food and or an activity accompanied by pray and the study of God's word is what true fasting is, which produces results.

The teaching here is not to say that fasting is wrong, or that there are no benefits to fasting but that no individual should be intimidated because someone else is practicing fasting as a spiritual discipline.

Fasting is nothing to brag or boast about.

3. DON'T BE INTIMIDATED BY ASCETICISM

Walking, or living by the Holy Spirit emphasizes constantly relying on the guidance of the Holy Spirit for daily decisions and actions. Conquering sinful desires is not obtained through asceticism but by continually living under the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

DON'T BE INTIMIDATED

By Legalism

By Mysticism

By Asceticism



Any
Questions