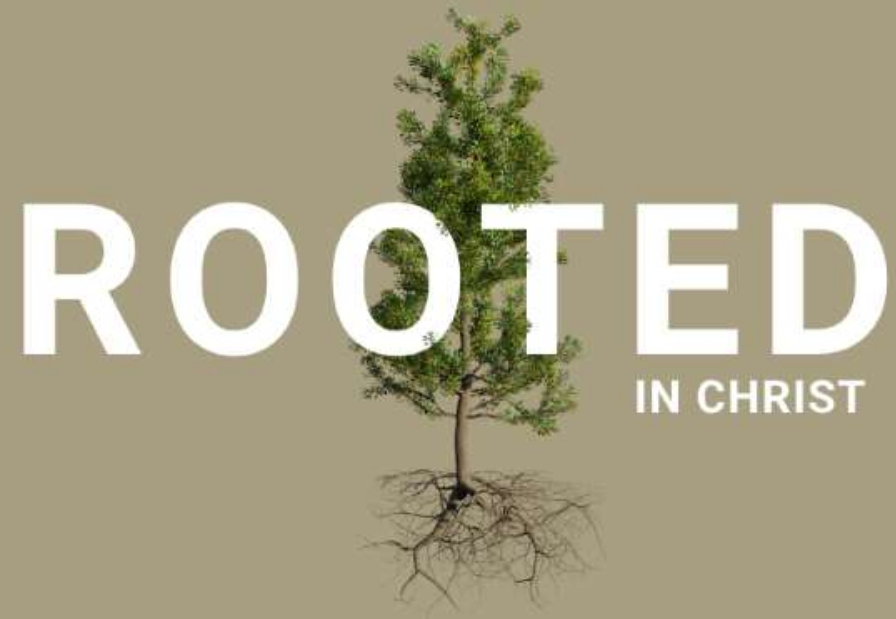




A Refreshing Look at Christianity

Colossians 2:16-23

Surprising Laws on the Books

ROOTED
IN CHRIST

- **Florida:** a woman may be fined for falling asleep under a hair dryer.
- **Indiana:** illegal to attend a movie or ride public transportation within 4 hours of eating garlic.
- **Illinois:** illegal to ice skate on outdoor ponds between June and August.
- **Wisconsin:** illegal to make a scary face at a dog.
- **W. Virginia:** members of the clergy are not allowed to tell jokes from the pulpit.

Colossians 2:16-19

ROOTED
IN CHRIST

“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. These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. 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, and not holding fast ...”

Colossians 2:19-22

ROOTED
IN CHRIST

“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. 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—‘Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch’ (referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to human ...”

Colossians 2:22-23

ROOTED
IN CHRIST

“precepts and teachings? These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.” (ESV)

The Preeminence of Jesus

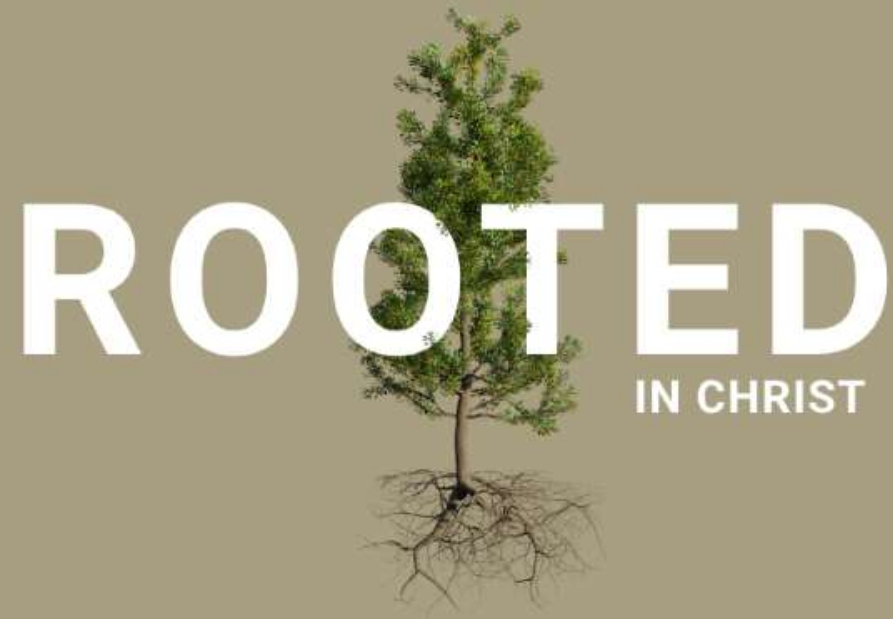
ROOTED
IN CHRIST

- He is the image of the invisible God (1:15)
- He is head (firstborn) over all creation (1:15)
- All things were created through him and for him (1:16)
- He was before all things (1:17)
- In him all things hold together (1:17)
- He is head of the church (1:18)
- In him we find the fullness of God (1:19; 2:9)

Judge (krino)

ROOTED
IN CHRIST

To pass unfavorable judgment, to criticize, to find fault with. To rule against.



The Danger of Legalism

Let no one pass judgment on you with regards to food, drink, festival, new moon, or Sabbath (16)

Legalism

ROOTED
IN CHRIST

- Legalism is the religion of human achievement.
- Legalism claims that your relationship with God is determined by human activity—what you do.

Romans 14:17

ROOTED
IN CHRIST

“For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.” (ESV)

Hebrews 9:9-10

ROOTED
IN CHRIST

“Gifts and sacrifices are offered that cannot perfect the conscience of the worshiper, but deal only with food and drink and various washings, regulations for the body.” (ESV)

Galatians 4:9-11

ROOTED
IN CHRIST

“But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more? You observe days and months and seasons and years! I am afraid I may have labored over you in vain.” (ESV)

Ephesians 2:8-9

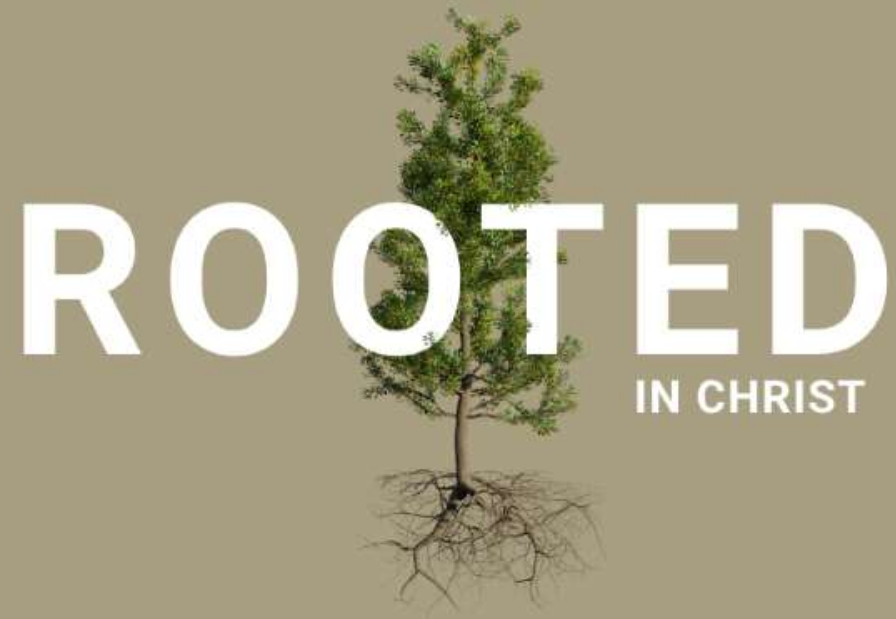
ROOTED
IN CHRIST

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.” (ESV)

The Problem with Legalism

ROOTED
IN CHRIST

- It develops surface faith.
- It is possible to conform to certain religious practices and still have a rebellious and unloving heart.
- Legalism is based on human activity rather than from a life that loves God wholeheartedly.



The Danger of Mysticism

“Let no one disqualify
you” (16)

Mysticism

ROOTED
IN CHRIST

- Mysticism is the religion of special, spiritual enlightenment
- It is the pursuit of an elusive deeper or higher religious state
- At its core is the exaltation of experience over Scripture or substance

Colossians 2:18

ROOTED
IN CHRIST

“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.” (ESV)

Disqualify (katabrabeuō)

ROOTED
IN CHRIST

- Rule against you inaccurately, Rob you of your prize by cheating.
 - Used on 1x.

Asceticism (tapeinophrosynē)

ROOTED
IN CHRIST

- Based on the root: humility or modesty.
- In this instance, “false humility” or “boastful modesty.”
 - It is delighting in humility.
 - It is a “look at me” attitude. Look how humble I am.

Worship of Angels

ROOTED
IN CHRIST

The worship of angels is strictly forbidden in Scripture (Rev 19:10; 22:8-9; Mt 4:10)

- **Two basic views**

- We need to worship God through angels (intermediaries)
- We have learned the secret of worshiping like the angels.

Colossians 2:18

ROOTED
IN CHRIST

“Going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by sensuous mind.” (ESV)

Colossians 2:19

ROOTED
IN CHRIST

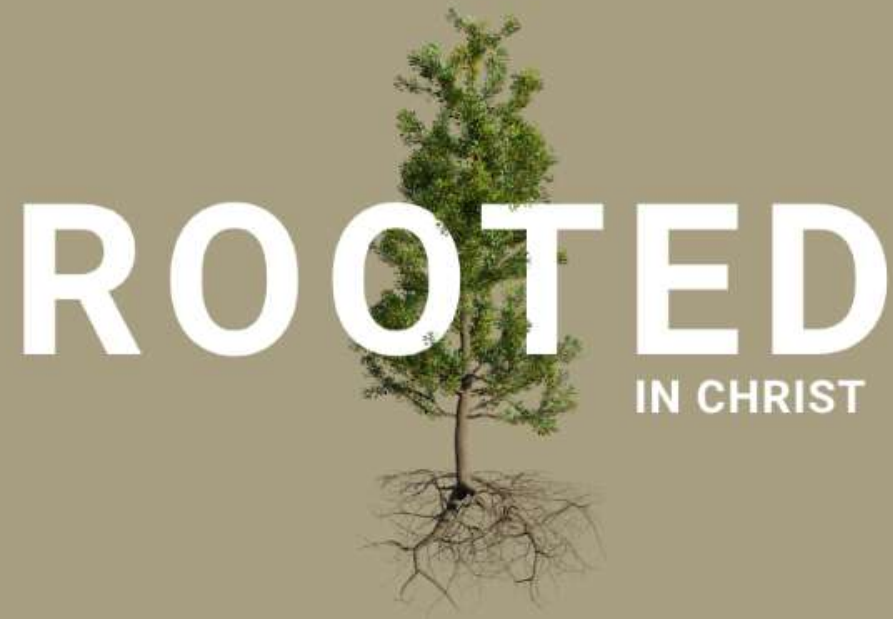
“And not holding fast to the Head.”

(ESV)

The Problem with Mysticism

ROOTED
IN CHRIST

- When you are grounded only in sensationalism, your teaching is not based on Jesus or the solid foundation of God's word.
- When you are saved by sensationalism or a mystical experience, what happens when the feeling fades?



The Danger of Subjectivism

“According to human precepts and teachings ... promoting self-made religion” (22-23)

Subjectivism

ROOTED
IN CHRIST

- Subjectivism is the religion of “me.”
- It focuses on personal, emotional experience.
 - This is how I feel. This is what I want. What’s in it for me?

Interesting Note

ROOTED
IN CHRIST

All of the “you’s” in the Book of Colossians are plural, except for the use of the negative commands: do not handle, do not taste, do not touch.

Problem with Subjectivism

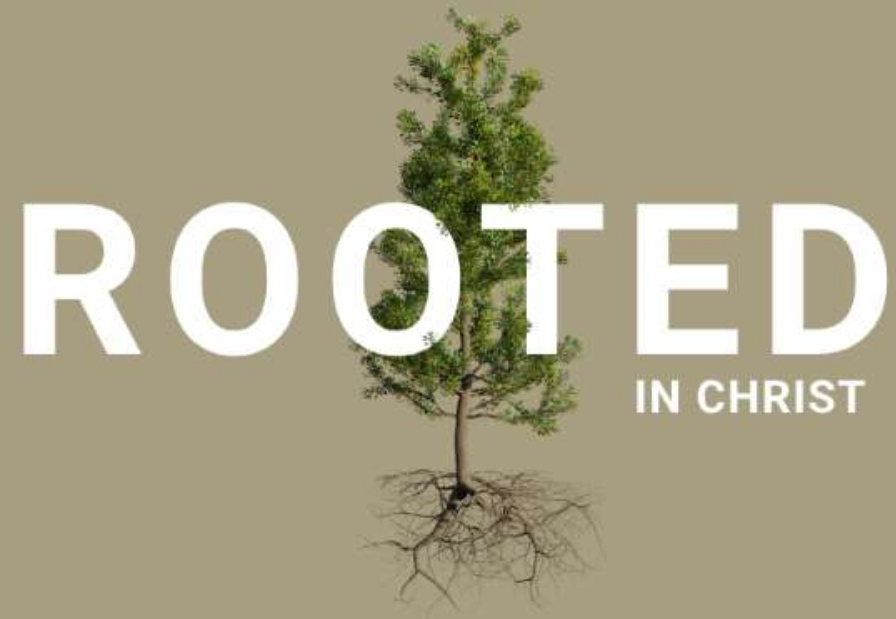
ROOTED
IN CHRIST

- Subjectivism says it is about “you”—singular
- Christianity is about “you”—plural
- Christianity is about the unity of believers to the HEAD—that is Jesus Christ

The Answer

ROOTED
IN CHRIST

- **To Legalism**—a continual realization of the grace of Christ
- **To Mysticism**—the understanding of how profoundly we can be in personal relationship with Jesus Christ
- **To Subjectivism**—the desire to be rooted in the true and reliable Word of God and anchored in Christ



A Refreshing Look at Christianity

Next steps

ROOTED
IN CHRIST

- With Christ's help, I will relinquish a judgmental spirit towards _____.
- I need to hold fast to Christ who is Head of the Church.
- I understand that God is calling us to be united and to grow together in Christ.