

The Supremacy of the Gospel
Opposition to the Gospel
Colossians 2:16-23

Introduction

The letter to the Colossians is one of four epistles Paul wrote while imprisoned in Rome. In this letter, Paul makes some of the most incredible statements in the New Testament about the divinity and supremacy of Jesus Christ.

1. Jesus literally holds the _____ together!
2. Some religious practices can be hazardous to your _____ health.
3. Paul rejects these teachings and practices declaring them hazardous to the Colossian's spiritual health because they side-track a person from spiritual _____.
4. To mature spiritually, you must be able to _____ false religious practices, resist those who advocate them and root them out of your own life.
5. The first religious practice that Paul says is in opposition to the gospel is _____.

I. Ritualism Stands in Opposition to the Gospel

6. Paul is referring to rituals known as the Ceremonial _____.
7. Jewish rituals centered around the _____ that the priests offered with good reason.
8. The promised Messiah would first come as the sacrificial _____.
9. Jewish rituals pictured how the Messiah would fulfill God's _____.

10. The followers of Jesus realized that _____ was the Messiah sent to fulfill the purpose that these rituals pictured.
11. Since the Colossian Christians didn't practice these rituals, the false teachers judged them as _____ for not practicing them.
12. Christ has set you free to develop a profound and enduring _____ with God.
13. The Old Testament rituals were "shadows" of _____.
14. Christ's death on the Cross made priests and the sacrificial system _____.
15. God's requirements have not changed, but they are now fulfilled through _____, not through animal sacrifice.
16. The better you know God, the more secure you are in His _____.
17. Paul goes on to say that for Christians to revert to ritualism is not spiritual progress but rather spiritual _____.
18. Since Jesus came, we can spend time with him _____.

II. Mysticism Stands in Opposition to the Gospel

19. Another religious practice that stands in opposition to the gospel is _____.
20. These false teachers were pronouncing the Colossians to be "second class citizens" because they hadn't _____ their so-called higher spiritual levels.

21. Mysticism is a _____ and counterfeit of an authentic personal relationship with God.
22. Mysticism defines _____ spiritual experiences as a crucial step to spiritual maturity.
23. Satan and _____ can deliver powerful spiritual experiences.
24. Not holding fast to Christ will be your downfall, but holding fast to _____ will be your salvation.
25. Mysticism leads you away from God's Word, but Christ speaks to us personally through His _____.
26. Biblical Christianity leads to _____ to God and to His people as they bring God's Word to us.

III. Legalism Stands in Opposition to the Gospel

27. _____ also stands in opposition to the gospel.
28. The Colossians were being told that it was wrong to eat certain foods because following these prohibitions was key to _____.
29. Legalism is an emphasis on _____-made rules and regulations as a requirement for spirituality.
30. You really can't legislate genuine righteousness or _____.
31. Godly behavior is governed by _____, not by regulation.
32. Legalism _____ God's laws and prevents spiritual maturity.
33. Learn to serve out of _____, not out of obligation.

Conclusion

34. A mature spiritual relationship with Christ gives you the _____ to enjoy God's good gifts and still live in obedience. (1Cor.8-10).

35. Deepen your relationship with Jesus by listening to the Holy Spirit and _____ the teaching of the scriptures.

Rituals, Mysticism, or Legalism, may look outwardly impressive, but they are incapable of fixing the real problem of our self-centeredness. The gospel proclaims biblical spirituality that leads us into a deep and profound relationship with God that becomes more important to us than the worldly pleasures of this life. God's work in us always moves us toward spiritual maturity and freedom in Christ.

ANSWERS

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| 1. Universe | 20. Experienced |
| 2. Spiritual | 21. Distortion |
| 3. Maturity | 22. Dramatic |
| 4. Identify | 23. Demons |
| 5. Ritualism | 24. Christ |
| 6. Laws | 25. Word |
| 7. Sacrifices | 26. Legalism |
| 8. Lamb | 27. Spirituality |
| 9. Plan | 28. Man |
| 10. Jesus | 29. Holiness |
| 11. Unspiritual | 30. Relationship |
| 12. Relationship | 31. Distorts |
| 13. Christ | 32. Love |
| 14. Obsolete | 33. Freedom |
| 15. Jesus Christ | 34. following |
| 16. Love | |
| 17. Regression | |
| 18. Personally | |
| 19. Mysticism | |