

Not holding. He who does not hold Christ supremely above all others, does not hold Him at all. **The Head** refers back to 1:18. Here, then, is the end result of those who would defraud the believer of his reward; it is to sever **the body** from **the Head**. **Joints** appear to be the points of union between the members of the body; **bands** are the ligaments, nerves, and tissues by which the same union is maintained and nourished. This is --a figure of the relation of Christ to His Church and of the members of the Church to each other. **Knit together** means “firmly united” (cf. 2:2; 3:14; Eph. 4:4-6). **With the increase of God** is not literally of God but from God, the increase that God gives (1:10; 2:7). ¹

Paul asks the question: Since you died, as it were, with Christ and this has set you free from following the world’s ideas of how to be saved-- why do you keep right on following them anyway still bound by such rules? (Colossians 2:20LB).

2. What are the ordinances Paul lists in Colossians 2:21,22? _____

These rules may seem good, for rules of this kind require strong devotion--and are hard on the body, but they have no effect when it comes to conquering a person’s evil thoughts and desires. This only makes him proud (Colossians 2:23 LB).

1. Beacon Bible Commentary, Volume 9, p. 407.

through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised Him from the dead. Colossians 2:12.

Romans 6:4-9 puts it this way -

Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life (Our new life in Christ).

For if we have been planted together in the likeness of His death, we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection:

Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth (from now on) we should not serve sin.

For he that is dead is freed (justified) from sin.

Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him:

Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over Him.

3. But what about the uncircumcision of our flesh? What did Christ do for that? (Colossians 2:13, 15) _____

RITUALS, REGULATIONS, AND DUTY
(Colossians 2:16-23)

Paul's conflict with the Colossian false teachers not only deals with doctrine, but carries over into the realm of human conduct. As someone has said, for Paul, "doctrine is the seed of duty." His concern with duty here involves two areas, ritual and regulation. ¹

1. Name the legalistic and ritualistic practices of Judaism, on which the Judaizers insisted the observance, mentioned in Colossians 2:16-19. ____

These are issues on which Christ was crucified by His enemies. These were a shadow of the things to come. This is the shadow in the Old Testament that could be seen of Christ (Colossians 2:17).

But the body is of Christ. Colossians 2:17b. This was the shadow, we have the substance. How silly

to call shadows reality!

2:18 WORSHIPPING OF ANGELS. The false teachers were saying that angels should be called upon and worshipped as mediators in order for people to make contact with God. To Paul, calling upon angels would be displacing Jesus Christ as the supreme and sufficient head of the Church (v.19); consequently, he warns against this. Today the belief that Jesus Christ is not the only intermediary between God and man is promoted in the practice of worshipping and praying to dead saints, who act as patrons and mediators. This practice robs Christ of His supremacy and centrality in God's redemptive plan. Worship and prayer to anyone other than God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost are unbiblical and must be rejected. ¹

Don't let anyone declare you lost when you refuse to worship angels, as they say you must (Colossians 2:18 LB).

It is not wrong to have a visitation of angels, for it is mentioned all through the Old and New Testaments; but the focus here is on the worshipping of angels, which is forbidden (Colossians 2:18).

These lying, false teachers were declaring visions which they had really not experienced, and a voluntary humility (Colossians 2:18); which most likely involved self mutilation.

1. Beacon Bible Commentary, Volume 9, p. 405.

1. Full Life Study Bible, p. 1876.