

### III. Don't be Intimidated by Shadows! (2:16-23)

- A. Food/drink, days and festivals, belong to the realm of shadows.
  
- B. False humility, harsh treatment of the body
  
- C. Don't be intimidated by shadows...

#### LIVE THE STORY

*We must not only love the Gospel Story, we must begin to live the Gospel Story, indeed, to have the Central Character live in us.*

- Have you struggled at times to understand how as a Christian you are supposed to relate to the law? Has the idea of delighting in the law day and night seem odd in light of the fact that we are not “under law”?
- Were you able to see clearly how the Christian is to relate to the law, and how the law is to relate to the Christian?
- Why can we say that the Old Testament was intended for, or belongs to, the Christian? Why is that true?
- Why might Paul be able to refer to the Law, as it was used by his detractors, as human tradition?
- Is the Christian called to walk in the law? Do we get free righteousness through Christ and then somehow realize or integrate righteousness (sanctification) through the law?
- Why does the Gospel call us to establish your values, change your thinking, direct your conduct all in accord with Jesus?
- Why should a life established in the Gospel be overflowing with thanksgiving? How are we doing in this?

### Don't be Shackled by Shadows

Jerry Cisar—December 13, 2009

Text: Colossians 2:6-23

#### Introduction: What is the Christian's Relationship to the Law?

- A. What does the Christian do with Psalm 1, or 119?

- B. 2:4 *fine-sounding arguments, persuasive arguments, or plausible arguments.*

*Something radical has happened in your life that radically changes how the law relates to you, and how you relate to the law.*

#### I. Walk in the Solid Reality of Jesus (2:6-7)

- A. As you have received Christ Walk in Him
  - i. What was delightful about the law?
    - The law **provided direction**
    - The law **provided mercy**
  - ii. But the Law is pointing to the reality: Christ.
    - Jesus provides mercy
      - 1 John 2:1-2

- Jesus provides direction
  - 1 John 2:6

- iii. We often think the law is for teaching us how to live, the Gospel is for giving us mercy, or enabling us, etc.
  - a) Jesus, the Gospel, is the substance for both!
  - b) **The law is useful like that old map is useful:** *you have to understand what has changed, how it pointed to Jesus and what it teaches us about Him!*

B. “Just as You **received** Christ Jesus **as Lord**”

- i. 1:6-7
  - a) *Received:* it is a message that was passed on.
  - b) “*as Lord*” the proper response to the message.
  - c) The same message about Christ **we received**, is the same one that **will transform** our lives as we are rooted in it, built up in it, established in it...

C. Rooted and Built Up; Established; Overflowing...

- i. Where do I walk?
- ii. As we are rooted, built-up in the Person of Jesus, and established in the faith...in the message of Jesus Christ, we will be overflowing with Thanksgiving.

**II. Don't be Taken Captive by Weaponless Captors! (2:8-15)**

A. Don't be Taken Captive

B. *Philosophy and Empty-handed deceit*

- C. Would Paul refer to the Jewish religion as “philosophy... human tradition... basic principles of this world?”
  - i. Matthew 15:6
  - ii. Isaiah 29:13

*Robbed of Christ as the fulfillment of the law, the law becomes no more than a philosophy, a human tradition; it is no longer the message which God gave.*