

The Freedom Robbers – Col. 2:16-23

1. Freedom Robber # 1: Legalists – Col. 2:16-17

a. They try to judge you by their _____.

b. The Colossian church's Legalists:

- i. Eating and Drinking.
- ii. Religious Festivals.
 - 1. Celebrations like: the Passover, the Feast of Weeks, the festival of trumpets, the Day of Atonement, and the Feast of Tabernacles.
 - 2. Numbers 28-29
- iii. New Moon celebration
 - 1. Numbers 28:11-15 – the ordinance
 - 2. There were celebrations
- iv. Sabbath Day
 - 1. Numbers 28:9-10 – the ordinance
 - 2. Trading stopped on the New Moon and Sabbath Days – Amos 8:5.

c. Our Legalists:

- i. We don't realize that we are imposing our personal convictions upon others.
- ii. To identify legalism (both within ourselves and legalism being imposed upon us) takes stepping back and asking ourselves: Is this _____ from his Word, or is this just a personal conviction?
 - 1. What are some good practices that have been used by God to grow people over the years, but are not God's standard?
 - 2. Rom. 14:16 *"Therefore do not let what you know is good be spoken of as evil."*

2. Freedom Robber #2: Referees – Col. 2:18-19

a. They try to _____ your salvation with faulty doctrine.

- i. They would probably say that they are just trying to help you make sure of your salvation.
- ii. What is the actual outcome of their statements?

b. The Colossian church's Referees:

- i. They delight in false humility and the worship of angels
- ii. Paul was telling these Colossians to not allow themselves to deny the reality of their salvation on the ground of this false humility.

- iii. What was wrong with their refereeing of Christians?
 1. *They had a _____ for disqualification*
 2. *They had lost _____ (v.19)*

c. *Our Referees: Where have you seen "referees" today?*

- i. Are there people in your life trying to disqualify you of your salvation?
- ii. Do you see how they are trying to combat the truth of God's word with their experiences or their pride?

3. Freedom Robber #3: Downers – Col. 2:20-23

a. *They try to deprive you of _____*

- i. They want you to think that misery is next to godliness. Making you feel guilty about any pleasure or fulfillment that you are experiencing in life.

b. *The Colossian church's Downers*

- i. Ascetics.
- ii. He says that they are free from any need to submit to man-made rules.
 1. b/c you died with Christ to those rules (v.20)
 2. Paul is saying that you have died to that way of ranking when you died with Christ and began your new life in him.
- iii. The rules imposed upon the Colossians
 1. "Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!" (v.21) avoid, avoid, avoid!
 - a. Most likely certain foods were included in their avoidance, since he says do not taste.
 - b. These rules deal with the perishable things – they don't deal with eternal things. (v.22)
 - c. These rules are just human command and teachings – they aren't from God (v.22)
 2. Jesus made a similar statement in Mark 7:14-19
 3. These rules only have the appearance of wisdom, Why?

c. *Our Downers*

- i. When someone is communicating the idea that God is up in heaven looking at Christians and trying to keep them from any fun, they might be a downer.
- ii. It is so ridiculous to think that we should impose misery upon others, but have you ever caught yourself doing it?
- iii. Why do we sometimes do it?