

**“the reality”**

Colossians 2:16-23

**“ the reality”**

**Colossians 2:16-17**

**16** Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. **17** These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.

**“ the reality”**

**“For since all who possess Christ have the substance [the reality], no Christian can have more or less. Therefore there can be no higher breed or upper class [Christian].**

**Dick Lucas**

**“ the reality”**

**Hebrews 10:1**

**The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming — not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship.**

# **“delights in false humility”**

**Colossians 2:18-19**

**18** Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you for the prize. Such a person also goes into great detail about what he has seen, and his unspiritual mind puffs him up with idle notions.

**19** He has lost connection with the Head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow.

# **“delights in false humility”**

## **Ephesians 4:11-16**

**11** It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, **12** to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up **13** until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

**14** Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. **15** Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. **16** From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

# **“delights in false humility”**

**“The fundamental problem with the false teachers was they were not connected with Christ, the Head of the body of believers. If they had been joined to Him, they could not have taught false doctrine or lived immorally. Anyone who teaches about God without being connected to Him by faith should not be trusted.”**

**NIV 1984 Life Application Study Bible**

**“an appearance of wisdom”**

**Colossians 2:20-23**

**20** Since you died with Christ to the basic principles [elemental spiritual forces], of the world why, as though you still belonged to it, do you submit to its rules:

**21** “Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!”?

**22** These are all destined to perish with use, because they are based on human commands and teachings.

**23** Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.

# **“an appearance of wisdom”**

**1 Timothy 4:1-7**

**1** The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. **2** Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron. **3** They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth.

**4** For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, **5** because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer. **6** If you point these things out to the brothers and sisters, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, nourished on the truths of the faith and of the good teaching that you have followed. **7** Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly.

**“an appearance of wisdom”**

**“Too often, Christians let the practical issues of the world become reference points for their spiritual development.**

**This may happen in two radically different ways. Christians may become preoccupied with this world by indulging in its activities. Lives of luxury, licentiousness, and lust destroy spiritual insight and growth.”**

**“an appearance of wisdom”**

**“Christians also easily become preoccupied with this world by measuring their Christian growth in terms of this world and its reference points. Thus they look to their separation from the world as evidence of their Christian maturity. In this, their spiritual road signs are the things of this world, rather than the things of Christ.”**

**“an appearance of wisdom”**

**“This latter situation was the problem at Colossae. They were looking to worldly wisdom to measure spirituality. When this occurs within the church, the church is misdirected and lives are powerless.**

**Paul countered this by discussing the nature of the false teachers’ attacks and by providing reasons Christians should not submit to them.”**

**“an appearance of wisdom”**

**How to guard against man-made religions by asking these questions:**

- **Does it stress man-made rules and taboos rather than God’s grace?**
- **Does it foster a critical spirit toward others, or does it exercise discipline discreetly and lovingly?**

- **Does it stress formulas, secret knowledge, or special visions more than the Word of God?**
- **Does it elevate self-righteousness, honoring those who keep the rules rather than elevating Christ?**
- **Does it neglect Christ's universal church, claiming to be an elite group?**

- **Does it teach humiliation of the body as a means to spiritual growth, rather than focusing on the growth of the whole person?**
- **Does it disregard the family rather than holding it in high regard as the Bible does?**

# **“an appearance of wisdom”**

**“We cannot reach up to God by following rules of pious self-denial, by observing rules, or by practicing religion. Paul isn’t saying all rules are bad. But no keeping of laws or rules will earn salvation... Man made religions focus on human effort; Christianity focuses on Christ’s work...Our salvation does not depend on our own discipline and rule keeping, but on the power of Christ’s death and resurrection.”**

# Applications

- **Read the Word**
- **Be in community**

# Final Thoughts

**“Sociologists tell us that 9 out of ten people in America believe in God, but only a fraction worship regularly with others... When we are severed from Christ and His community, we guarantee our spiritual malnourishment.”**

**David Garland**

# Final Thoughts

## Hebrews 10:23-25

**23** Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. **24** And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, **25** not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.