

# YOUTH CHURCH

## COLOSSIANS 2: 16-23

Last week we looked at Colossians 2:4-15 and living a Christ-filled life. This week we are moving onto Colossians 2:16-23 and looking at how our security is dependent solely on what Christ done for us, rather than what we do for him. Read our passage today and answer the questions below!

Bible Study:

WHAT IS THE KEY VERSE?  
WHAT ARE THE REPEATED  
WORDS?  
WHAT SURPRISES YOU?  
WHAT DO YOU LEARN  
ABOUT THE COLOSSIAN  
CHURCH?  
WHAT IS PAUL'S MAIN  
POINT IN THIS PASSAGE?  
HOW DOES THIS PASSAGE  
APPLY TO YOUR LIFE AS A  
CHRISTIAN?

## SOME THOUGHTS

In this passage Paul is warning the Colossian church,' firstly, he talks about religious activity. Have a read over verse 16 again, all of these elements are issues concerning the old covenant. Look up the verses below to see what we mean:

'What you eat or drink' - Leviticus 11

'Religious festival' - Leviticus 23

'A new moon celebration' - Numbers 10:8-10

'A Sabbath Day' - Leviticus 23

Jewish readers would have been shocked by Paul suggesting this doesn't matter anymore as each of these ways were the means for believers to show their devotion to God. Jewish readers would have assumed Paul was just throwing out these rules because he couldn't be bothered with them or didn't like them, but, this is not what Paul meant. In verse 17 Paul says 'These are a shadow of the things that are to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.' In other words, what Paul is explaining here is that once Jesus came the 'terms and conditions' changed, these laws were never intended to be permanent. They were only designed to express devotion to God until the reality in Christ came. Jesus frees us of laws that are impossible to follow. An example of this is in Mark 7:17-23 when Jesus publicly declared that all foods were clean. Seeing all these connections between different books in the Bible can be really interesting to find out, this shows us that the Bible isn't just a collection of short stories, but, rather one story that all connects together.

Now, we don't have these laws today but sometimes we can worry that if we don't read our bibles, spend time with God and go to church (or listen online!) that things will go wrong in our life or that they are necessary for our relationship to be right with Jesus. Paul is telling the Colossian church and us today that our security in Christ is dependent solely on what he has done for us, rather than what we do for him. We should not judge ourselves (or others) on how much we read the bible, spend time with God or come to church. This does not mean we shouldn't do these things, they are great ways to grow in our relationship with Christ and know Him better, but these are not ways to become secure in Christ, Jesus already done that on the cross! The fact remains the same, we are in Christ and Christ is in us, a status that is not earned by us, but granted.

## REFLECTION:

Have a think about what you have read...

Is what Paul said encouraging? How so?

It is very easy to forget that our security in Christ is dependent solely on what he has done for us, rather than what we do for him, how do you think you can remind yourself of this and been encouraged?