

Guard Your Freedom,
Guard Your Marriage,
Guard Your Christian Life in Christ
Colossians 2:16-18

In Colossians 2:15 we saw how JESUS CHRIST disarmed Satan and his forces and led them in the Triumphal Procession.

And in Colossians 2:16-23 we have Satan's Counter Attack against believers.

Satan and his forces do everything they can to prevent anyone from believing in JESUS CHRIST as Savior, but once some get through and are saved, Satan wages a counter attack.

Chapter 2 is about JESUS CHRIST and about those who are in Christ.

You are in the Angelic Conflict.

Note the warnings in this one chapter.

Colossians 2:4

4 **I say this so that no one will delude you with persuasive argument.**

Colossians 2:8

8 **See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.**

Colossians 2:16

16 **Therefore no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day—**

And one verse that is very important for All Eternity.

Colossians 2:18

18 **Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on *visions* he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind,**

OVERVIEW OF THE WARNINGS IN YOUR CHRISTIAN LIFE

- ◇ Let No one delude you by persuasive arguments
- ◇ Let No one take you captive by false teaching
- ◇ Let No one defraud you of your prize at Judgment Seat of Christ

Paul not only tells us how to prevent these things from happening to us, but also...

Why we should not allow these things to happen to us. Please know that there are multitude of forces seeking to counter your spiritual life. **The World, the Flesh and the Devil.**

Be on guard! Your relationship with JESUS CHRIST is in daily danger.

The first attack:

LEGALISM!

Colossians 2:16

16 **Therefore no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day—**

The inferential particle translated **therefore** is used as transitional conjunction and to give its proper force should be translated.

Consequently *in view of the victory of JESUS CHRIST in the **ANGELIC CONFLICT** and His Triumphal Procession and due to the fact that you are a partaker of His Victory On The Cross verse 14-15... be on guard to live your life in the freedom wherewith you have been set free.*

Galatians 5:1

1 **It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.**

It does not matter if we are speaking of Political Freedom or Spiritual Freedom—Freedom must be **guarded—protected**.

And it is guarded by not abusing it.

People in America are continually losing basic freedoms because we do not protect basic freedoms.

This is seen in Galatians 5:13

13 **For you were called to freedom, brethren; only** introduces a stern warning **do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.**

Once a people learn they can vote themselves money that government is on its downfall. Once Christians learn they can use their freedom for the satisfaction of their own desires, they are on their way to spiritual collapse.

16 **Therefore or Consequently let no one to act as your judge**
PRESENT ACTIVE IMPERATIVE of the Greek word *krino*
which simply means to judge and voice opinions on a given subject.

Next, we have a list of areas that were prominent in believers judging One Another.

People, mostly believers, are judging others based on 5 categories or taboos in Judaism. These Christians seek to build their own righteousness by setting up some taboos then judging others who do what they declare is unrighteous.

What is so interesting is that each branch or circle or denomination has their own little list... which, by the way, they claim comes from the bible.

In one group you cannot drink but you can play cards or dice games. Another group includes cards or dice games in their list. The list goes on and on: can't dance, can't drink, can't eat certain foods, can't go to movies, and great number of taboos on dressing, esp. controlling how females dress.

Colossians 2:16

16 **Therefore or Consequently let no one to act as your judge in regard to food**

1. There were several food prohibitions that existed in the time of Israel and were taken over by the legalist and distorted by the legalist.

Remember:

“a little legalism will not hurt you, it will kill you”

First there were prohibitions under the Mosaic Law, such as prohibition against eating pork. Secondly there were prohibitions of any type of food offered to idols. This was a serious problem in the ancient world. And while we do not have so much involved in food offered to idols the Principle still remains in effect as per Paul's teaching in 1 Corinthians.

2. Those believers with a trend from their Inherited Sin Nature toward asceticism have always distorted eating or lack of eating into some system of self-righteousness.
3. This trend toward asceticism nearly always advances 'fasting', claiming that fasting bring you closer to God. It is wise if you are taken in by fasting to do a study on fasting in the Bible. They did not have micro waves or not even modern ovens, etc. In Principle fasting was aimed more at

the time it took to prepare a meal than the sacrifice of the meal itself. So, you take the some 2-3-hours it took to prepare a meal and instead, you devoted that time to prayer and worship and study of Scriptures rather than to preparing a meal.

4. All these taboos against eating certain foods and fasting may bring your stomach closer to your backbone but it never brings you closer to God
5. In today's world we still have our own taboos in the 'health food kick". The USA has the all-time record for the abundance of food and having it packaged. Multitude of other countries do not have packaged food such as we have... and they still have greater numbers of health problems. So, there is a trend toward asceticism that distorts eating into a system of spirituality, under the banner, **"what you eat makes you more spiritual or less spiritual"**.

If it is good for you then it is spiritually beneficial;
if it is bad for you (*by their standards*) then it must be of the devil.

All this erroneously assumes that by observing certain food taboos they are spiritual giants. And by their own adhering to these self-imposed taboos gives them the right to judge those who violate these taboos.

6. The true-biblical issue of the Christian life is ***feeding on the Word of God***. It is not an issue of what foods enter your stomach, the issue is **what teaching enters your soul**.

Pay close attention to what enters your soul: philosophy and empty deception of verse 8 or the Word of God, Knowledge of JESUS CHRIST and of God and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 4:4

4 **But He JESUS CHRIST answered and said, "It is written, '*MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.*'"**

Jeremiah 15:16

16 **Your words were found and I ate them, And Your words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart; For I have been called by Your name, O LORD God of hosts.**

Matthew 5:6

6 **"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. "keep thirsty my friend".**

Job 23:12

12 **"I have not departed from the command of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food.**

John 4:34

34 **Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work.**

7. The guiding Principle on these taboos is given to us by Paul in...

Romans 14:2-4

- 2 **One person has faith that he may eat all things, but he who is weak** in his Biblical understanding **eats vegetables *only***
- 3 **The one who eats is not to regard with contempt the one who does not eat**, their own branch of self-righteousness **and the one who does not eat is not to judge the one who eats, for God has accepted him** setting themselves up to judge others
- 4 **Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.**

The Principle is not to impose your false standards on other

8. In our modern world of medicine, we know that some people are allergic to certain foods and of course it is wisdom for them to refrain from eating those foods. But, certainly they should not make a spiritual issue out what they can and cannot eat except for the point that if they eat and get sick, this, of course, will interrupt their spiritual momentum.
9. The eating and drinking issues are related to the Law of Love, Laws of Expediency, and the Law of Supreme Sacrifice taught in 1 Corinthians 8:8-13.

- 10.** God must have known that this issue with food and drink would find its way into Spirituality and Legalism for He covers is all through the Word of God.

We will look at some of these:

- (1)** The Guiding Principle

1 Corinthians 10:31

31 **Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.**

- (2)** From the beginning God has made something clear:
before the Flood:

Genesis 1:29-30

29 **Then God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you;**

30 **and to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the sky and to everything that moves on the earth which has life, I have given every green plant for food"; and it was so.**

A little search on Google and you will find out that of the five-hundred-thousand known plants species, man has only domesticated about one hundred. Only about thirty of these species provide us with 85 percent of our food and 95 percent of our protein and calories.

Seventy-five percent of all of man's food comes from only eight cereal species: **corn, rice, wheat, oats, barley, sorghum, millet** and **rye**. Of the 4500 mammalian species

on earth, only 16 species have been domesticated for man's use.

- (3) Then after the flood, God introduced meat-eating, so next time you want to degrade meat-eating remember:

Genesis 9:3

3 **"Every moving thing that is alive shall be food for you; I give all to you, as I gave the green plant.**

- (4) And in reference to Spiritualizing of food:

1 Corinthians 8:8

8 **But food will not commend us to God; we are neither the worse if we do not eat, nor the better if we do eat.**

The Word of God ends legalism related to food.

Add to this: 1 Timothy 4:4-5

4 **For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with gratitude;**

5 **for it is sanctified by means of the word of God and prayer.**

- (5) The Biblical Principle of eating and drinking is found in

Mark 7:14-23

14 **After He JESUS CHRIST called the crowd to Him again, He began saying to them, "Listen to Me, all of you, and understand:**

15 **there is nothing outside the man which can defile him if it goes into him; but the things which proceed out of the man are what defile the man.**

16 **["If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear."]**

- 17 **When he had left the crowd *and* entered the house, His disciples questioned Him about the parable.**
- 18 **And He said to them, "Are you so lacking in understanding also? Do you not understand that whatever goes into the man from outside cannot defile him,**
- 19 **because it does not go into his heart, but into his stomach, and is eliminated?" (*Thus, He declared all foods clean.*)**
- 20 **And He was saying, "That which proceeds out of the man, that is what defiles the man.**
- 22 **"For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries,**
- 22 **deeds of coveting *and* wickedness, *as well as* deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride *and* foolishness.**
- 23 **"All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man."**

Matthew 15:11

- 11 **"*It is not* what enters into the mouth *that* defiles the man, but what proceeds out of the mouth, this defiles the man."**

(6) Wisdom from

Proverbs 15:17

- 17 **Better is a dish of vegetables where love is Than a fattened ox or T-bone steak *served* with hatred.**

Proverbs 17:1

- 1 **Better is a dry morsel and quietness with it, Than a house full of feasting, with strife.**
(you might want to think about this one at Thanksgiving!)

(7) Further Wisdom

Psalm 104:15

15 **And wine which makes man's heart glad, So that he may make *his* face glisten with oil, And food which sustains man's heart.**

Ecclesiastes 9:7

7 **Go *then*, eat your bread in happiness and drink your wine with a cheerful heart; for God has already approved what you do.**

Matthew 6:25

25 **"For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, *as to* what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, *as to* what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and /body more than clothing?**

Be careful how you answer this!

(8) Then, of course, there is the event where Peter was moved out of his legalism into Grace.

Acts 10:10-15

10 **But he Peter became hungry and was desiring to eat; but while they were making preparations, he fell into a trance;**

11 **and he saw the sky opened up, and an object like a great sheet coming down, lowered by four corners to the ground,**

12 **and there were in it all *kinds of* four-footed animals and crawling creatures of the earth and birds of the air.**

13 **A voice came to him, "Get up, Peter, kill and eat!"**

14 **But Peter said, "By no means, Lord, you will notice that legalists prefer to argue with the Lord, the Word of God**

for I have never eaten anything unholy and unclean."

You can just hear his legalistic self-righteousness...
why I have never...

15 **Again a voice *came* to him a second time, "What God has cleansed, no *longer* consider unholy."**

(9) Warning as to the end of the Church Age:

1 Timothy 4:1-6

1 **But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons,**

2 **by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron,**

3 ***men* who forbid marriage *and* advocate abstaining from foods which God has created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth.**

4 **For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with gratitude;**

5 **for it is sanctified by means of the word of God and prayer.**

6 **In pointing out these things to the brethren, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, *constantly* nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound doctrine which you have been following.**

(10) Food for thought:

1 Corinthians 6:13

- 13 **Food is for the stomach and the stomach is for food, but God will do away with both of them. Yet the body is not for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body.**

Colossians 2:17

- 17 **Things which are a *mere* shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ.**

Colossians 2:18

- 18 **Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on *visions* he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind,**

The ninety and nine

Joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance. Luke 15:7.

E. Clephane

I. Sankey

1. There were nine - ty and nine that safe - ly lay In the shel - ter of the fold,
 2. Lord, thou hast here thy nine-ty and nine; Are they not e - nough for thee?
 3. But none of the ran - somed ev - er knew How deep were the wa - ters crossed;
 4. "Lord, whence are these blood-drops all the way That mark out the mountain's track?"
 5. But all thro' the moun-tains, thun - der-riven And up from the rock - y steep,

But one was out on the hills a - way, Far, far from the gates of gold;
 But the shepherd made an - swer "One of mine Has wan-der'd a - way from me,
 Nor how dark was the night that the Lord passed thro' Ere he found his sheep that was lost,
 "They were shed for one who had gone a - stray, Ere the shepherd could bring him back."
 There rose a cry to the gate of heav'n, "Re - joice I have found my sheep!"

A - way on the moun - tains wild and bare, A - way from the ten - der
 And al-though the road be rough and steep, I go to the des - ert to
 Far out in the des - ert he heard its cry, - Faint - ing and help - less and
 "Lord, why are thy hands so rent and torn?" "They are pierced to - night by
 And the an - gels sang a - round the throne, "Re - joice for the Lord brings

shep - herd's care, A - way from the ten - der shep - herd's care.
 find my sheep, I go to the des - ert to find my sheep."
 read - y to die, Faint - ing and help - less and read - y to die.
 man - y a thorn, They are pierced to - night by man - y a thorn."
 back his own! Re - joice, for the Lord brings back his own!"

How think ye? if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray? And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth more of that sheep, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray. Even so it is not the will of your father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish. Matthew 18:12-14.

1. There were ninety and nine that safely lay
In the shelter of the fold;
But one was out on the hills away,
Far off from the gates of gold.
Away on the mountains wild and bare;
Away from the tender Shepherd's care.

2. "Lord, Thou hast here Thy ninety and nine;
Are they not enough for Thee?"
But the Shepherd made answer: "This of Mine
Has wandered away from Me.
And although the road be rough and steep,
I go to the desert to find My sheep."

3. But none of the ransomed ever knew
How deep were the waters crossed;
Nor how dark was the night the Lord passed through
Ere He found His sheep that was lost.
Out in the desert He heard its cry;
'Twas sick and helpless and ready to die.

4. "Lord, whence are those blood-drops all the way,
That mark out the mountain's track?"
"They were shed for one who had gone astray
Ere the Shepherd could bring him back."
"Lord, whence are Thy hands so rent and torn?"
"They're pierced tonight by many a thorn."

5. But all through the mountains, thunder-riv'n,
And up from the rocky steep,
There arose a glad cry to the gate of heav'n,
"Rejoice! I have found My sheep!"
And the angels echoed around the throne,
"Rejoice, for the Lord brings back His own!"
"Rejoice, for the Lord brings back His own!"

6. REFRAIN:

And the angels echoed around the throne,
"Rejoice, for the Lord brings back His own!"
"Rejoice, for the Lord brings back His own!"