

LINCOLN COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
SERMON OUTLINE
August 12th, 2018
Col. 2:20-23

- **Recap:** Paul largely concluded his passage on condemning extra-biblical practices and convictions as biblical truth. Paul makes it clear: We cannot argue convictions as Scripture, or seek extra-biblical ways to godliness outside of trust and obedience to His Son.

- **“If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world,”**
 - Paul states openly that we, as believers in Christ, should already be “dead” in terms of the elemental principles of this world, and functioning in worldliness. This is stated in **Col. 2:11-12**.
 - So remember here, we see this concept of spiritual death and spiritual life in Christ as Paul describes it. You can see this also in **Romans 5-6**.
 - So those who are in the world operate by these principles, principles of pleasing the “self” instead of submitting to the rule of God, still living as though they are in a pre-salvation state. You can see why this is forbidden of the believer!

- **“why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations”**
 - Then Paul asks his rhetorical question: **So why are you still living like this?**
 - So note this firstly: Legalism is worldliness. Also ascetic practices are worldliness. Why? Because both of these practices stem from nothing more than self-righteousness.
 - Now of course, it’s worth making the note here, we are not talking about self-discipline, which is a fruit of the Spirit and should be part of the believer’s life.

- **““Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch’ (referring to things that all perish as they are used)”**
 - Note that he lists them as laws that pertain to using, touching, and tasting, objects that are perishable. We’re talking about forbidding precise objects, literal perishable items! This is a reference to foods, drinks, material goods, money, perhaps various comforts like fine clothes, nice houses, etc.

- **“These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.”**
 - This final clause is perhaps the most telling part of this passage. Paul informs you that yes, these things can deceive you into thinking they are good for you!

- **So, exercise true, godly discipline, that is, for submission to Christ’s Word, preaching and teaching His truth, and building up the church. But not asceticism for the purpose of**

making yourself more holy with man-made practices.