



Holding Fast to Jesus!

June 25, 2023 – Col. 2:16-23

Pastor Jon Pickens

Working Through the Passage:

16 Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. 17 These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.

18 Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, 19 and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.

20 If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations— 21 “Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch” 22 (referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to human precepts and teachings?

23 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.

3 Ways false teaching leads believers away from Christ:

1. **Legalism**: When we treat rituals and traditions as if they are the means through which we experience Christ’s forgiveness and righteousness, as opposed to that which points us to the grace of Jesus, then we diminish the work of the cross.
2. **Sensationalism**: When we sensationalize the spiritual realm to the point that we inflate our experiences to feel more connected to Christ, we fall into the trap of worshipping the experience rather than Christ.
3. **“Christian” Humanism**: When we look to ourselves to fix ourselves, especially when it comes to dealing with sin in our lives, instead of leaning into the power of Christ, then we diminish the sanctification work of the Holy Spirit and end up frustrated and empty.

The Central Idea: Hold Fast to Christ!

1. Acknowledge His grace daily!
2. Acknowledge your need for Him daily!
3. Pursue the truth through His Word daily!
4. Listen to His voice and surrender immediately!
5. Give Him praise always!

Discussion Questions:

1. In what ways have you experienced legalism in the church? How did you work through that?
2. In what ways have you experienced sensationalism in the church? How did you work through that?
3. In what ways do you find yourself falling for “Christian” humanism? How do you work through what is a humanistic way to deal with sin and a godly way of dealing with sin in your life?
4. What does it look like for you to hold fast to Christ?
5. What action are you going to take as a result of what God’s Word teaches?

Next Steps:

1. If you would like to become a follower of Jesus, please let us know. Pastor Jon will be in the room behind the Welcome Center after the service.
2. If you are interested in baptism, let Pastor Jon know in person or email him at pj@fbclowell.org.
3. Read the Bible with us to know God and respond to Him! Below is our current schedule.

June 2023			
(Two Year Reading Plan, Month 18)			
Week 1 Starting June 5	Week 2 Starting June 12	Week 3 Starting June 19	Week 4 Starting June 26
Day 1: Job 20-22	Day 1: Job 37-39	Day 1: Proverbs 10-12	Day 1: Proverbs 25-26
Day 2: Job 23-27	Day 2: Job 40-42	Day 2: Proverbs 13:1-15:29	Day 2: Proverbs 27-29
Day 3: Job 28-30	Day 3: Proverbs 1-3	Day 3: Proverbs 15:30-19:22	Day 3: Proverbs 30-31
Day 4: Job 31-33	Day 4: Proverbs 4-6	Day 4: Proverbs 19:23-22:16	Day 4: Ecclesiastes 1-3
Day 5: Job 34-36	Day 5: Proverbs 7-9	Day 5: Proverbs 22:17-24:34	Day 5: Ecclesiastes 4-7
<p>¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹² training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³ waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Titus 2:11-14 (ESV)</p>			

What action are you going to take as a result of what God’s Word teaches?