

STUDYING THE BOOK OF COLOSSIANS
IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

**Lesson 4 - Freedom From Human Regulations Through Life With Christ -
Colossians 2:1-23**

Read the following verses in the New International Version or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

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COL 2:1 I want you to know how much I am struggling for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally. [2] My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, [3] in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. [4] I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments. [5] For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how orderly you are and how firm your faith in Christ is.

COL 2:6 So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, [7] rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

COL 2:8 See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.

COL 2:9 For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, [10] and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority. [11] In him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ, [12] having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.

COL 2:13 When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, [14] having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. [15] And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

COL 2:16 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. [18] Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you for the prize. Such a person 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.

COL 2:20 Since you died with Christ to the basic principles of this 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.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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35. What did Paul want his audience to know? (2:1)
36. What was Paul's stated purpose? (2:2-3)
37. What is hidden in Christ? (2:3)
38. How would a commitment to the full knowledge of Christ protect the Colossians? (2:4)
39. How was Paul unified with the church at Colosse? (2:4)
40. What delighted Paul? (2:5)
41. How did Paul tell the Colossians to continue in Christ? (2:6-7)
42. What false teaching was Paul concerned about? (2:8)
43. What did Paul affirm about Christ? How? (2:9-10)
44. What did God give the Colossian believers? (2:10)
45. Why do Gentile Christians have no need to conform to Jewish rules and regulations? (2:11-12)
46. How did the Cross cancel the written code? (2:13-14)
47. From what did Christ deliver us? How? (2:15-17)
48. How did Paul encourage the Colossians to practice their freedom in Christ? (2:16)
49. How did Christ fulfill what the Old Testament foreshadowed? (2:17)

50. Whom did Paul accuse of trying to rob believers of their spiritual rewards? (2:18)
51. What were the characteristics of the false teachers? (2:18-19)
52. How did Paul challenge the legalism that had infected the church? (2:20-21)
53. What are the failings of human commands and teachings? (2:20-23)