

We Are Glad *You* Are Here

Sunday, February 15 2026



sermon: "Walking in Freedom" Part 3- Colossians 2:16-23

Big Idea: Jesus alone is our sure path to spiritual freedom.

I. Don't Be Disqualified (vv. 16-19)

A. The folks in the Colossian church were running a good race until false teachers came along and tried to trip them up with deceptive teachings and practices that reflected a worldly wisdom not rooted in Christ and His Gospel (cf. Gal. 5:7-8).

B. The teachings of these false teachers included:

1. Legalism (v. 16; cf. Matt. 15:8-9) – An adherence to external, man-made rules that become the basis for pride, arrogance, and judgmentalism.
2. Mysticism (vv. 18-19; cf. Eph. 4:17) – A claim to knowledge, experiences, and authority that lie outside God's revelation and are rooted in the false teacher's imagination and from demonic forces.
3. Asceticism (vv. 20-22; cf. Matt. 6:1) – A radical self-denial that goes beyond spiritual discipline and becomes the basis for self-righteousness and works salvation.

C. These practices ultimately fail because they are not grounded in Christ (v. 19), but in human precepts and teachings that may have an appearance of wisdom but do nothing to curb sin and transform our hearts and minds (v. 23).

II. Running the Race Well (vv. 20-23)

A. True spiritual transformation (cf. Rom. 12:1-2) does not come through external religious practices, but rather from a heart transformed by the Holy Spirit as we trust in Christ. How do we keep ourselves from being cheated of our prize in Christ?

1. Remember (v. 19; cf. Eph. 4:15-16) – Christ is the supreme source of authority, wisdom, strength, and salvation.
2. Rooted (cf. Col. 2:6-7; Gal. 2:20) – In Christ and the Word of God.
3. Refined (cf. 2 Thes. 2:13) – By the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit as He conforms us into the image of Christ.
4. Reliant (v. 19; cf. Matt. 11:28-30) – On the grace of God and not in our works.

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Sunday, February 15, 2026



sermon: "Walking in Freedom" Part 2 - Colossians 2:13-17

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