



**The Christian in the World**  
**Part Four: The Constraint of Conscience**  
*Colossians 2:20-3:1*

**1. The Vacancy of \_\_\_\_\_**

It is empty to think that the mere constraint of worldly regulations will provide the motivation to hold you off from yielding to temptation. The fear of earthly judgment might keep you from committing a crime, but it will not cleanse you from sin.

*"Then it goes and brings with it seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there, and the last state of that person is worse than the first." ~ Matthew 12:45*

**2. The Vanity of \_\_\_\_\_**

It is vanity to believe that we can invent a religious condition that will satisfy God Almighty, let alone remove from us our inner wickedness. In the end, it is only an outward show that does nothing to purify the heart.

*I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose. ~ Galatians 2:21*

**3. The Value of \_\_\_\_\_**

With true salvation comes a new life. If you are dead to this world and alive in Christ, you have a new nature that is more akin to God than to the old self. Therefore, set your attentions on those things that will build your life anew.

*We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. ~ Romans 6:4*

**Romans 6:11-12**

**So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions.**



**The Constraint of Conscience**  
**Additional Scripture References**  
*(And Rabbit Trails Bible Study)*

**Galatians 4:9**

*But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more?*

**Colossians 2:8**

*See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.*

**Isaiah 28:13**

*And the word of the Lord will be to them precept upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line, here a little, there a little, that they may go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken.*

**Matthew 23:15**

*Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel across sea and land to make a single proselyte, and when he becomes a proselyte, you make him twice as much a child of hell as yourselves.*

**Hebrews 9:13-14**

*For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.*

**1 Peter 2:1-3**

*So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation—if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.*