

Which is more Godly...

- Water or beer?
- Dresses or pants?
- Neckties or Polos?
- *Uno* or solitaire?
- Wed pm or Fri pm?
- KJV or NIV?
- Cash or credit?
- Piano or drums?
- Courting or dating?
- *Bo's* or *Chick-Fil-A*?

What you believe
determines
how you live



Colossians 1:9-10



“...we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects...”

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Paul's Letter to the

Colossians



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The Apostle Paul's Exhortation

1. Reject Rejection (2:16-23)
2. Pursue Perfection (3:1-4)



1. Reject Rejection (2:16-23)

- Colossians 2:6-7

“Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, **so walk in Him**, **having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.**”



1. Reject Rejection (2:16-23)

- Therefore...

- Don't let anyone take you captive (2:8)
- Don't let anyone judge you (2:16)
- Don't let anyone defraud you (2:18)



1. Reject Rejection (2:16-23)

- Legalism (2:16-17)
- False Doctrine (2:18-19)
- Asceticism (2:20-23)



Dealing with Legalism

- Don't let anyone judge you:
 - Food (dietary laws)
 - Drink (strong? i.e. - alcoholic)
 - Festival (*Passover, Pentecost, Tabernacles*)
 - New Moon (monthly offering/feast)
 - Sabbath (seventh day; day of rest)



Dealing with Legalism

- Don't let anyone judge you:
 - You're not 'out' because you don't keep the law
 - Romans 14
 - Each settled in his own mind
 - Being offensive is not loving



Dealing with Legalism

- Don't let anyone judge you:
 - *Shadow vs. Substance* (17)
 - Hebrews 9-10
 - Law pointed to Christ
 - Earthly copies of the real in heaven
- Hold to what is real, not the shadow



Dealing with False Doctrine

- Don't let anyone defraud you:
 - *you lose the contest and therefore the prize because the umpire made a bad judgment against you*
 - You're not 'out' because you don't worship angels



Dealing with False Doctrine

- Don't let anyone defraud you:
 - The source: *visions* (18)
 - Elevates esoteric experience above the revealed truth of God (cf. Deut. 13:1-5)
 - The solution: *'Head' knowledge*
 - Eph. 4:11-16; Gal. 1:6-9; 1 Timothy 4



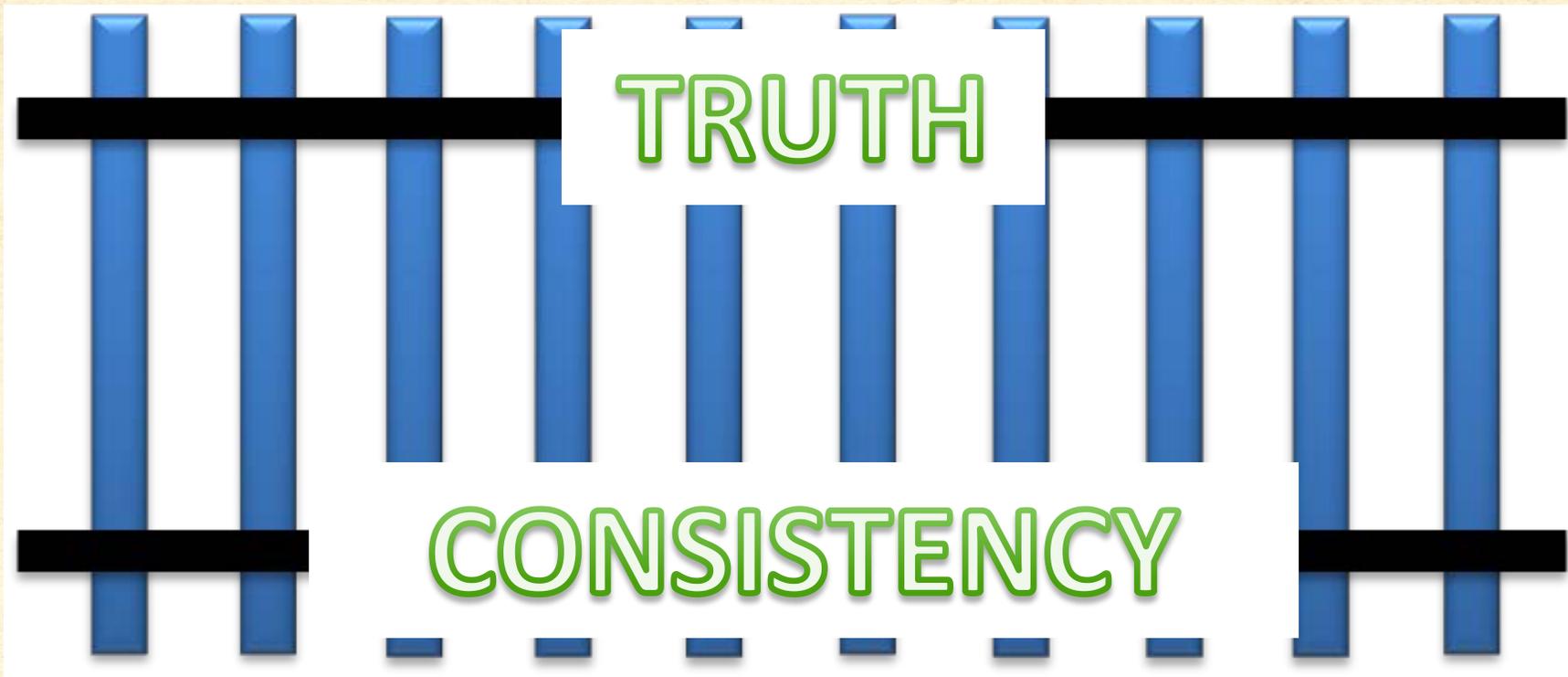
Dealing with False Doctrine

- Don't let anyone defraud you:
 - False teachers don't hold to Christ (19)
 - Walking worth: *knowledge, wisdom, understanding* (1:9-10)
 - In Christ: *wisdom and knowledge* (2:3)
 - The God-Man took care of it! (2:9-15)



Dealing with Asceticism

- Method



Dealing with Asceticism

- Truth: you died with Christ to the elementary principles (see 2:8)
- Consistency: Why do you still submit to them?
 - Why go back? (Gal. 4:1-11)



Dealing with Asceticism

- “Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!”
 - Food & drink (2:16); perish w/ use (2:22)
 - Legalism / self-made religion
 - No value: doesn't deal with the heart
 - External; *blaming the bait*



Dealing with Asceticism

- Spiritual maturity is measured by what you do, not by what you don't do
 - *Putting off* is part of the process, but *putting on* is more important (3:9-10)
 - You can't *put on* unless you *put off* (3:12-17; Gal. 5:16-17; Eph. 4:22-24)



2. Pursue Perfection (3:1-4)

- Truth: you have been raised up
- Consistency: therefore, **seek** things above and **set your minds** on things above
 - Seek: *direct your will toward; desire*
 - Heb. 11:13-16; 32-38



2. Pursue Perfection (3:1-4)

- Truth: you have been raised up
- Consistency: therefore, **seek** things above and **set your minds** on things above
 - Set your minds: *think about / dwell on*
 - Phil. 3:17-21; 4:8-9



2. Pursue Perfection (3:1-4)

- Things above?
 - God's glory, worship, agenda
 - Christ: character, attitude, perspective
 - Heaven, reward, complete redemption
 - *Holiness*



2. Pursue Perfection (3:1-4)

- Why set our minds on thing above?
 - Because we are dead to the things below
 - What you believe determines how you live
 - Your life is (with) Christ



Christ, Who is our Life

- Jesus Christ:
Lived a holy life,
died, was buried,
was raised, and is
now seated at
God's right hand

- Believers:
Called to a live a
holy life because *in*
Christ we died, were
buried, were raised,
and are now seated
at God's right hand



So What?

- Do my actions reflect the gospel?
- Do I judge holiness by the right standard?
- How do I determine what is true?
- Where is my focus/hope/treasure?
- Which is more important to me: my agenda or God's?

