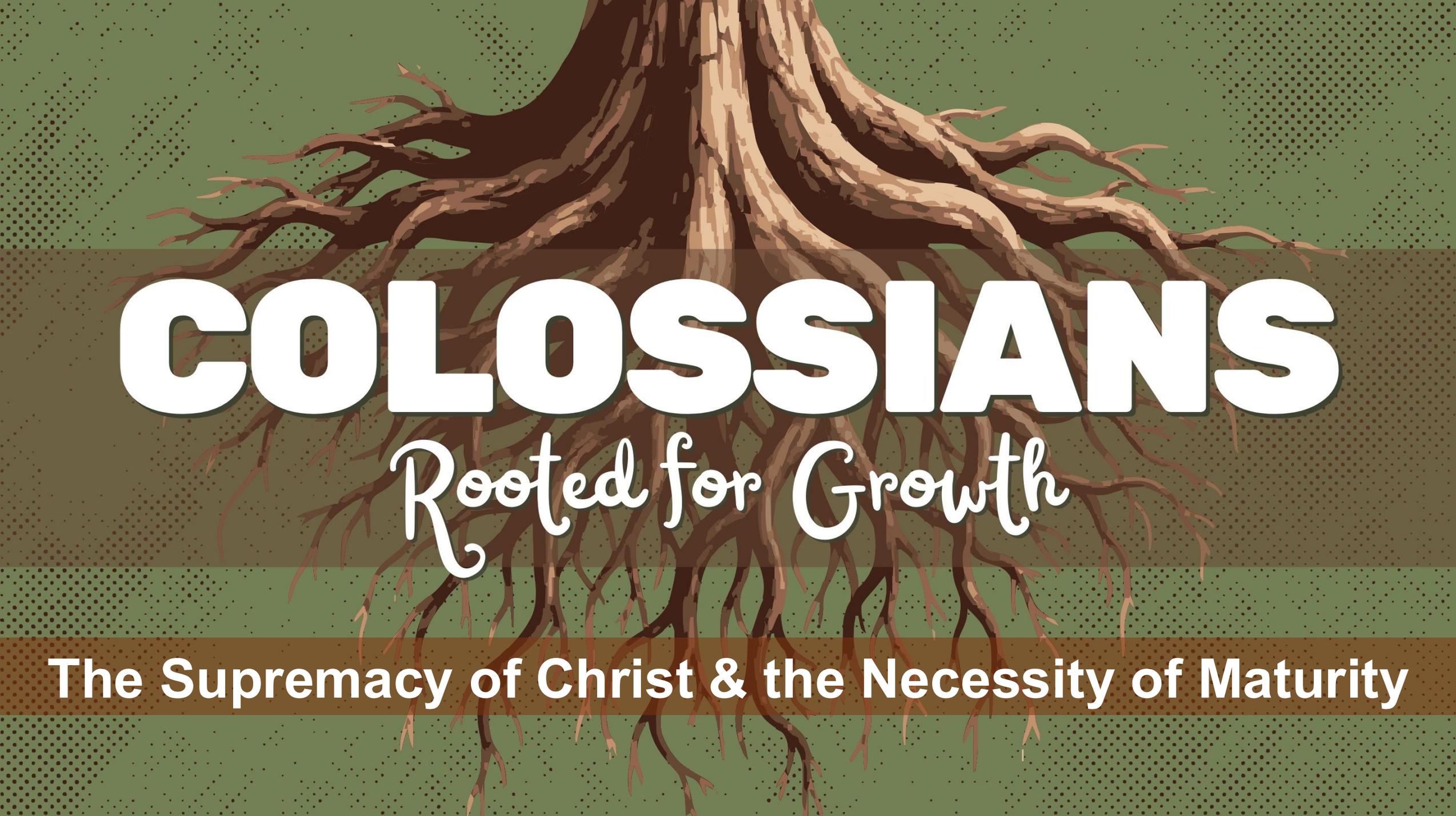


COLOSSIANS

Rooted for Growth



COLOSSIANS

Rooted for Growth

The Supremacy of Christ & the Necessity of Maturity

Today's cultural landscape,
both secular and sacred,
looks surprisingly similar to first century Colossae.

There is a syncretistic dynamic in a new
“alternative orthodoxy” dividing the church,
which contains tentacles of a new age philosophy that
degrades the need and necessity for a personal redeemer.

These movements claim that the “old orthodoxies” are
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leading people to the misguided bondage of a worthless
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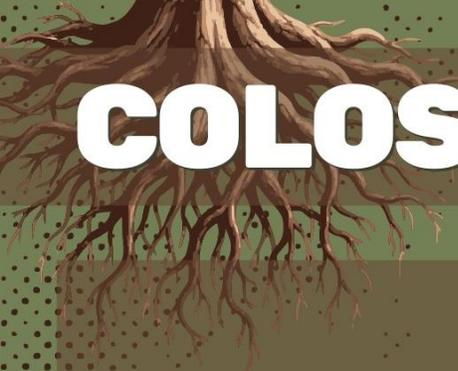
Syncretistic Dangers in the Church

The Gospel

(orthodox biblical truth)

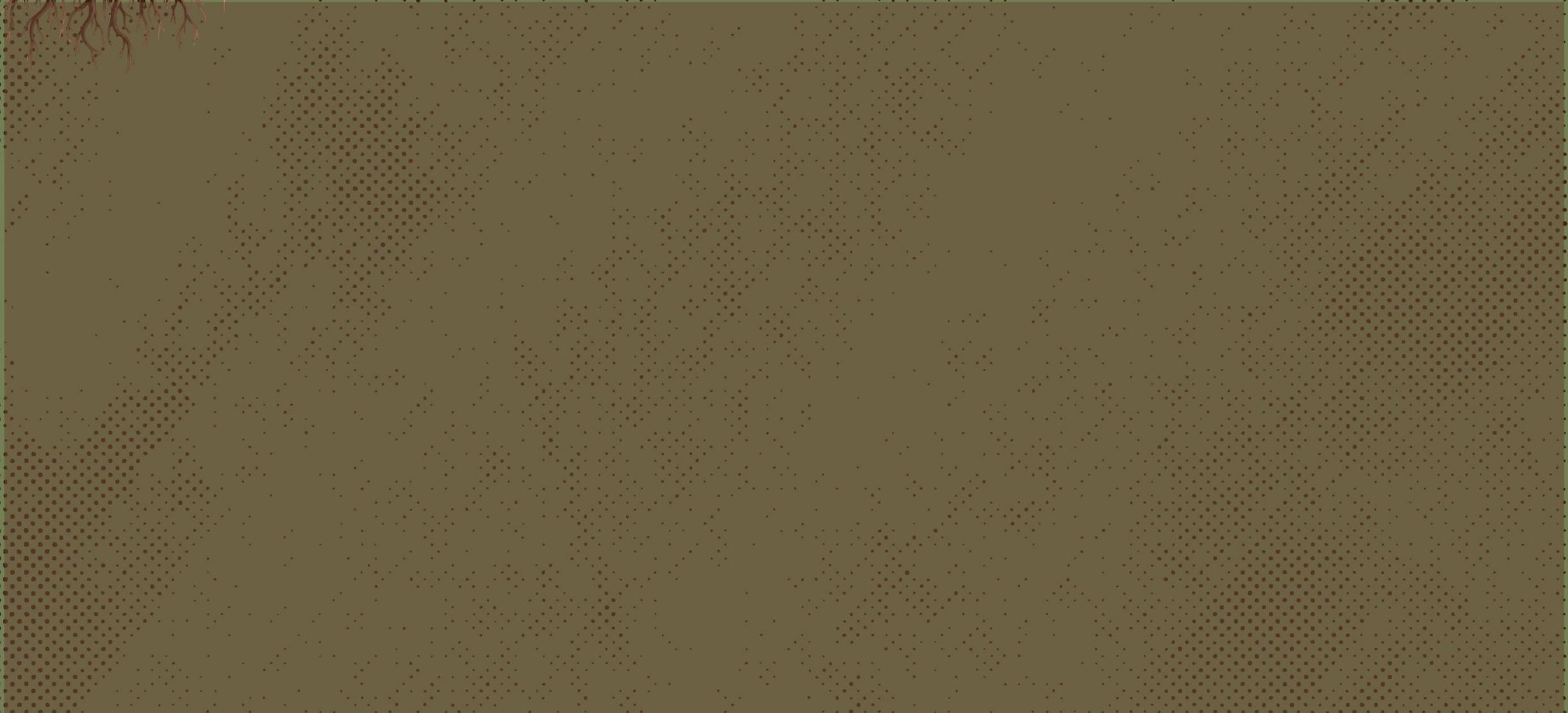
was / is being
corrupted by a
variety of
elements,
including ...

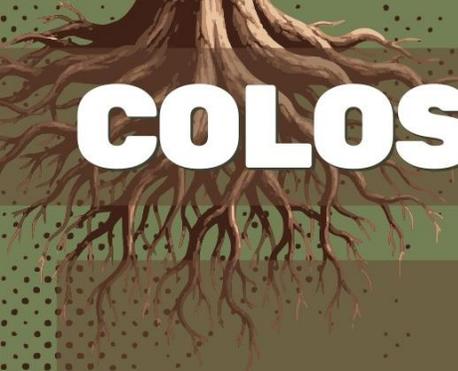
Jewish Legalism
Subjective Experientialism
Artificial Supernaturalism
Intellectual Elitism
Greek Mysticism
Roman Polytheism



COLOSSIANS *Rooted for Growth*

Chapter 2:6-15





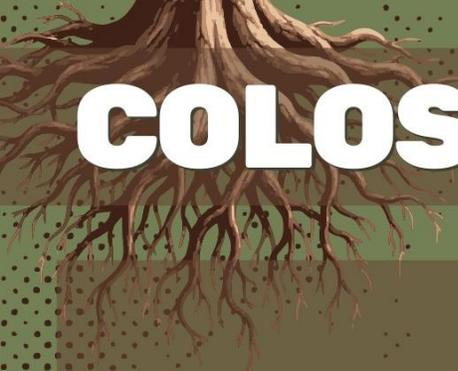
Dead or Alive?

Shadow or Substance?

Summary and Thread of the Message

Don't get seduced by the latest cultural rendition of Jesus that actually replaces Him with a preferred view of reality.

He is the only authority that is reliable and has the power to not just fix or heal, but to actually make dead people alive by paying their debt with His own life.



Dead or Alive?

Shadow or Substance?

When the 'shadows' of our faith
become the 'substance'
(or the primary focus of our attention)
we will find ourselves simply being religious
people who are in fact living out a
man-centered gospel that is devoid of any power
to live in the freedom of a transformed life.

The total inadequacy
of
legalistic mysticism

- 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, 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.
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¹⁹

16 Therefore

What's the 'therefore' therefore?

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,
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grows with a growth that is from God.

16 Therefore

What's the 'therefore' therefore?

- 13 And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the
17 uncircumcision of your flesh,
God made alive together with Him,
18 having forgiven us all our trespasses,
14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us
with its legal demands.
 This He set aside, nailing it to the cross.
15 He disarmed the rulers and authorities
and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in Him.

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¹⁶ Therefore let no one pass judgment on you

Greek: krinó

1. In a strict sense....to distinguish, i.e. decide (mentally or judicially) with the impact of separating someone from the rest; to make a choice by making a judgment (either positive or negative).
2. By implication.....to try, to condemn, to punish, to reject.

To play the role of God by determining a verdict of guilty or inauthentic in relation to the real deal

To exclude from the salvation that comes from God

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.

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Jewish Religious Traditionalism

The Torah

(the first 5 books of the Old Testament: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy) has very clear and strict guidelines for Israel. Yet, in the Gentile world, it was common to purchase food and drink that had been offered to idols. Paul's instruction generally stated that those idols were not in anyway to be seen as a god. Christians were free to partake, unless it violated the conscience of other believers. Then, they were to voluntarily abstain out of concern for the weaker brother.

COLOSSIANS *Rooted for Growth*

Chapter 2:16-23

16 **Therefore** let no one pass judgment on you
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17 *shadow of the things to come,*

Romans 14:14

I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself,
but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean.

Romans 14:17

For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking
but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

grows with a growth that is from God.

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17 *These are a shadow of the things to come,*

Romans 14:20 - 23

Do not, for the sake of food, destroy the work of God. Everything is indeed clean, but it is wrong for anyone to make another stumble by what he eats.

It is good not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything that causes your brother to stumble. The faith you have keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who has no reason to pass judgment himself for what he approves.

But whoever has doubts is condemned if he eats, because the eating is not from faith.

For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.

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Jewish Religious Traditionalism

The seasonal, monthly and weekly instructions from the Torah

Key Aspects of New Moon and Festivals in the Torah:

- **Rosh Chodesh (New Moon):** Marks the start of a new Hebrew month, observed as a minor festival where special sacrifices were offered, trumpets blown, and sometimes labor was suspended.
- **Festivals (Moedim):** The primary festivals—Passover, Shavuot, and Sukkot—are directly tied to the lunar cycle, starting 15 days after a New Moon.
- **Relationship to Sabbath:** The weekly seventh-day Sabbath was associated with times of rest and worship.
- **Significance:** These days were meant to sanctify time, honor the Creator, and serve as occasions for gathering, joy, and reflection.

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COLOSSIANS *Rooted for Growth*

Chapter 2:16-23

16 **Therefore** let no one pass judgment on you

Greek: *tapinophrosyne*
false humility or lowliness



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Revelation 22:8-9

I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me, and he said to me, “You must not do that!” I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers and prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God.

COLOSSIANS *Rooted for*

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“Unspiritual
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Ephesians 4:11-16

¹¹ And He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way **into Him who is the head, into Christ**, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, **joined and held together by every joint** with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

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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.

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exaggerated worship

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COLOSSIANS *Rooted for Growth*

Chapter 2:16-23

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False humility

Pretentious.
exaggerated worship

These have indeed an appearance of wisdom, in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body,

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Harsh treatment
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Summary and Thread of the Message

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When the 'shadows' of our faith
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So.....Therefore.....What Now



So.....Therefore.....What Now

**Be careful to not make the 'shadows'
of your walk with Christ the 'substance'.**

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**Going
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So.....Therefore.....What Now

**Be thoughtful as to what 'shadows'
could enhance your walk with Christ.**

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**Engaging
in true
fellowship**

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So.....Therefore.....What Now

**Be ready to address what the world
has to offer that so easily entangles us.**

So.....Therefore.....What Now

Be ready to address what the world has to offer that so easily entangles us.

Chapter 3

is all about the brokenness
the world has to offer
versus what Christ wants to clothe us with.

Closing Benediction

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ.
It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.
And the life I now live in the flesh
I live by faith in the Son of God,
who loved me and gave Himself for me.