



2026 1Q Christ in Philippians and Colossians Lesson 10 Complete in Christ

by Tim Jennings (announcement last page)

SABBATH

Read Colossians 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. Colossians 2:8 NIV84

What does this mean?

What is a hollow or deceptive philosophy? Something that is not real, that is not tied to reality, that is fiction, fantasy, myth. It does not contain truth and thus cannot nourish the soul or bring healing to the heart and mind. It would be like getting people to eat wax fruit—void of any ability to nurture or provide life.

Can you think of any hollow or deceptive philosophies that depend on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than Christ—which are untrue, are not how reality works, and therefore do not bring spiritual health?

Primary, number 1, fiction, fantasy, myth, hollow and deceptive philosophy that has no power to restore love, trust, righteousness into the soul is the lie that God's law functions like human law, imposed rules, and that justice is God using power to inflict punishment for rule breaking. This is totally, completely, and fully built upon human tradition and not upon Christ. And it has no ability to heal hearts and minds, win to love and trust, and in fact it causes those who believe it to create more fictitious beliefs, more lies to make themselves feel safe and keep their spirit of fear alive. What kinds of lies am I talking about? What kinds of philosophies have developed in Christianity based on the that God's law functions like human law and God's justice is God torturing and killing sinners?

All the various made-up beliefs that function to hide and protect sinners from God. The falsehoods that take beautiful Bible metaphors and rather than teaching biblical truth they replace it with this hollow and deceptive philosophies—such as:

- Instead of teaching the truth that the metaphor of being covered by the robe of Christ's righteousness means that we have been reborn with His Spirit and our hearts, minds, thoughts, attitudes have been renewed and purified so that Christ lives in us and therefore when the Father looks at us He no longer sees us as a rebellious sinner but He sees us a righteous son or daughter **because we have in fact, in reality, become the righteousness of God** as 2Cor 5:21

teaches—instead of teaching this truth, the hollow and deceptive philosophy of human tradition teaches that to be covered by the robe of Christ’s righteousness is a legal covering that hides the record of our sins and the corruption of our characters so that when, in the judgment, the Father looks at us He doesn’t actually see us, because we are corrupt and sinful, instead He sees the perfect righteousness of His Son which covers over and hides the truth of our sinfulness from the Father and based on this covering God legally declares us to be righteous even though we are in reality not righteous.

- This is also taught by corrupting the metaphor of washed or covered by the blood in the same way
- This corruption is also taught by teaching Jesus’ is in heaven pleading His blood to the Father to propitiate the Father’s wrath

All of this is hollow and deceptive based on human tradition and not on Christ.

More modern philosophies that are also hollow are all the godless theories of materialism, evolutionism, Marxism, communism, wokeism, humanism, all forms of earth worship, etc.

Every one of these false philosophies, including the false legal philosophies infecting Christianity, all stem from the spirit of fear and selfishness inherited from Adam and all of them function to make oneself feel more secure, safe, less fearful, while keeping the spirit of fear alive. In other words, these philosophies prevent salvation—and the really sickening aspect of the penal/legal lies in Christianity is that while they are solidifying people in selfishness, while they are preventing salvation, they posture, purport, and claim to be the way to salvation. This is exactly the Laodicean condition—though pitiful, wretched, blind, and naked they think they are spiritually rich and in need of nothing.

This is modeled and demonstrated by the Jewish leaders who crucified Christ. They believed themselves to be the pinnacle of spiritual health, religious righteousness, God’s chosen and special people—but Jesus told them that they were of their father the devil—why? Because they had the wrong Bible, the wrong Sabbath, the wrong diet, the wrong ceremonies, the wrong hymns? No! Because they had the wrong understanding of God’s law and therefore they had the wrong god. They believed God’s law functioned like human law and they believed justice was inflicting punishment for rule-breaking, and that is why they sought to punish Jesus for breaking their rules. It is why Saul of Tarsus used the power of the state to seek to punish rule-breakers.

And sadly this is the condition of many Christians and much of the church today, teaching that God’s law functions like human law and God’s justice is the use of power to punish law breakers.

SUNDAY

Read first paragraph,

- Job asked, “Where can wisdom be found? And where is the place of understanding?” (Job 28:12, NKJV). Paul answers: in Christ, “in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and

knowledge” (Col. 2:3, NKJV; compare 1 Cor. 1:30). If we have Christ, we have everything, even the “full assurance of understanding” the purpose of life (Col. 2:2, NKJV). Through Him the mystery of God, which embraces the entire plan of salvation, has been revealed. *Adult SS Guide 1st Q 2026, Uniting Heaven and Earth: Christ in Philipians and Colossians*, p. 77.

Christ is the wisdom of God—what do you understand this to mean? Full revelation of God’s character, methods, principles, designs, protocols for life, health, salvation, truth?

Can you give some examples of this wisdom as taught in Scripture or revealed by Jesus?

Consider,

- For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.” Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. 1 Corinthians 1:18-21.

What is the foolishness of the world and what is the wisdom of God?

The basic principle of the world is fear-driven selfishness, survival of the fittest—but the wisdom of God is self-sacrificial love ultimately manifested at the cross.

For those who are animated by the spirit of fear—it makes no sense whatsoever to die, it makes perfect sense to dominate, control, and kill to protect and advance oneself, through any method that helps one be more secure, have greater control, and protect self, including imposed law and law enforcement.

But in reality this is foolishness because the very actions that are thought to protect and promote life cut people off from God the source of life and directly cause their eternal death—the wages of sin is death, sin when full grown bring forth death.

The validation of the survival instinct, the spirit of fear, hardens people in selfishness and actively prevents salvation—truly foolish.

The wisdom of God is truth, love, freedom that restores truth in God so that we surrender our lives, our selves, and die to the old life of fear and are reborn in love and trust and then we live those principles, seeking to give rather than take, forgive rather than demand just punishment, love truth in our own hearts and minds but also live truth rather than lie to ourselves and deceive everyone else by living a fraudulent life of pretentious piety of presenting ourselves as good righteous law-keeping Christians but with hearts unrenewed still focused on fear and making self look good—like the Pharisees in Christ’s day.

All of the legal religion of the Jews in Paul's day was foolishness and it is just as foolish today.

Read the second paragraph,

- The Greek word *paraklēthōsin* means “encouraged” or “strengthened” (Col. 2:2). Paul's desire is not only to help the believers in Colossae recognize false teachings but also to “unite” (*sumbibasthentes*) them in Christian love. The tense used for both verbs—“encouraged” and “united”—indicates Paul's confidence that this epistle will achieve its intended purpose. *Adult SS Guide 1st Q 2026, Uniting Heaven and Earth: Christ in Philippians and Colossians*, p. 77.

How does the message of God through Paul achieves unity? It is by indoctrination, like a cult indoctrinates and brainwashes? Is it through fear and threat of punishment, obey or else?

How is unity achieved? Can God get the unity He desires by exercising physical might and power? What about through miracles—will the performance of miracles bring about the unity God desires?

Jesus performed many miracles, and after feeding the 5000 what happened? Weren't the people becoming united?

- After the people saw the miraculous sign that Jesus did, they began to say, “Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world.” Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself. John 6:14-15 NIV84.

Why wasn't Jesus happy with their response? Doesn't He want them to unite and follow Him as their king? Why did Jesus disperse the crowd?

Because they were wowed by miracles which validated their spirit of fear and selfishness, which caused them to want to use physical might and power to force Jesus to the throne so He would use His miracle working power to use might and power to destroy the Romans.

In other words, the people wanted to establish a satanic kingdom with Jesus at its head—they wanted a kingdom run by might and power and inflicted punishments upon one's enemies. But Jesus rejected it, for His kingdom is not of this world and does not run on might and power, “not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit says the Lord” Zech 4:6. And the Spirit is the Spirit of truth and love that leaves people free to decide.

It is only through truth and love that wins hearts and minds to love and trust that godly unity is achieved!

But sadly, still today, many in Christianity are preaching, teaching, and longing for a king who is like Satan, a being who will use power to punish and kill their enemies—and Satan is going to come in the very near future impersonating Christ; and Satan, in the guise of Jesus, will allow what Jesus refused—Satan will allow people to use force and put him on the throne—and that is described as the rise of the beast with lamblike horns in Revelation 13 or the 8th king in Revelation 17.

Read the fourth paragraph,

- But by prescribing proper decorum in worship (see, for example, 1 Corinthians 11), and specifying how elders and deacons should be selected (1 Timothy 3, Titus 1), Paul was very careful to preserve order in the church. Through these measures, God's wisdom and the teachings of the Bible are preserved and promulgated. *Adult SS Guide 1st Q 2026, Uniting Heaven and Earth: Christ in Philippians and Colossians*, p. 77.

No question disorder, chaos, division is from God's enemy and interferes with God's kingdom, purpose, methods. So, we absolutely want order, respect, healthy boundaries and structure in our lives, our families, our churches, our worship.

So, good order provides a platform for the advancement of truth—however, does that mean organizations with good structure and good order are necessarily presenting the truth? In other words, if we find a church that has good structure and order does that mean they will necessarily be teaching God's truth, or could a church with good order and structure teach error?

Did the Jewish religious system in Christ's day have a very specified order and structure? And while the Scriptures within that system contained truth, and the object lessons of the sanctuary contained truth, was the truth actually being taught by that organizational leaders or was the truth being actively obstructed by those in the leadership of that organization?

And how did they obstruct truth, only by their distortions or did they use their good order and structure to do so? Didn't they use their system's structure and organizational rules to restrict people from participating in their system if they didn't go along with what they taught? In other words, they used intimidation and threat of disfellowship to pressure conformity and compliance in order to inhibit people from thinking for themselves. Didn't they criticize people who questioned their teachings as heretics and demonics—even accusing Jesus of this?

Is there a lesson in this for us today?

First, any organization that has the Bible available and promotes and puts the Bible into people's hands is promoting the truth in the same way the Jews were 2000 years ago, because God's truth is contained in the Bible. But does that mean organizations that promote belief in the Bible and use the Bible are actually teaching the truths contained in the Bible, or could they be using the Bible to teach falsehoods? Didn't the Jews do that 2000 years ago use the Bible to teach falsehoods?

So what is the lesson? Romans 14:5 every person is to be fully persuaded in their own mind. We are to study God's Word for ourselves, know the truth for ourselves and not let leaders in any organization tell us what to believe. And that includes Come and Reason Ministries. We are not here to do your thinking or believing for you, we are here to present our understanding, with evidence, for you to examine and prayerfully think through for yourselves and choose for yourselves what to believe.

So avoid places of chaos, disorder, emotional dysregulation, find places of worship in which there is order and good structure, but watch to see if there is also freedom, or whether the order and structure is used to inhibit questions, free-thinking, and instead if there is pressure to believe the organizational traditions and orthodoxy because it is tradition and orthodoxy, not because they are able to demonstrate with evidence and reason it is true. If you find organizations with good order but who are closed to advancing truth and when truth is brought up that exposes problems in their orthodoxy, like Christ did with the Jews, if they respond with anything other than loving openness to consider while leaving you free to be fully persuaded in your own mind, be very careful about that organization.

MONDAY

Read first paragraph,

- The theme of Colossians is one of the clearest maxims for living the Christian life: “As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him” (Col. 2:6, NKJV). We receive salvation by receiving a Person, not just a body of teachings. But receiving Jesus also includes accepting all His teachings, as given through the apostles and prophets of the Bible (see Eph. 2:20). *Adult SS Guide 1st Q 2026, Uniting Heaven and Earth: Christ in Philippians and Colossians*, p. 78.

Really good thought here, that we receive salvation by receiving a person not just a body of teachings, this is so important to recognize.

But how? How would you tell a person who doesn't know Jesus how they can come to know Him, rather than know about Him? In other words, what must a person do to come to know Jesus personally rather than just knowing about Him?

What would you say to someone who has been raised in a Christian church knows many Christian doctrines, has been baptized and is a member of the church, but they do not have peace for their soul and it is obvious while they claim a belief in Jesus they do not manifest any of the fruits of the spirit, in fact just the opposite. What would you say to such a person who recognizes their plight, they are frustrated with their life, they want peace for their soul, but their church attendance, Sabbath keeping, tithe paying, Bible reading, none of it has resulted in peace—they tell you they believe what the Bible says about Jesus but they don't have an experience with Him—what would you say to them?

The last sentence of the paragraph says,

- But receiving Jesus also includes accepting all His teachings, as given through the apostles and prophets of the Bible. *Adult SS Guide 1st Q 2026, Uniting Heaven and Earth: Christ in Philippians and Colossians*, p. 78.

What does this mean, accepting all His teachings?

Let's assume for a moment that whatever is being accepted as a teaching of Jesus, is in fact, a truth He taught. Does it make a difference in accepting His teachings, why we accept it?

Could a person accept a truth for a wrong reason and not be blessed by that truth?

Let's take the example of Jesus' teaching that He is the way, the truth, and the life, and no one comes to the Father except through Him.

We accept the truth that Jesus is our only Savior, that it is only through Him we have salvation.

Can a person accept this truth from a motive and understanding that actually prevents them from coming to the Father?

Consider Jesus teaching here, which I think speaks to the question I am asking:

- “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’ Matthew 7:21-23 NIV84.

Isn't Jesus saying that their will be people who claim Him as Lord, who accept His teachings, who do ministry in His name, yet they are not saved and in fact, they are doing evil?

How could this be? Because accepting the facts are not sufficient, it is the heart motive behind the acceptance.

Unless a person is born again they cannot see the kingdom of heaven. If we accept facts about Jesus but those facts are taught in such a way that reinforce the spirit of fear and do not lead to surrender and rebirth, then one can claim the right doctrinal belief in the teaching of Jesus but harden in heart against Jesus.

This primarily happens through the penal legal systems of religion that teach sin is a legal problem, God is the source of punishment for sin, which causes people to live in fear of what God will do to them. In other words, they do not actually trust God, they believe He is required to kill them for their sin. Thus, they come to believe that they can only come to the Father through Jesus because only Jesus has the perfect sinless blood to pay the Father for their sin crime and they cling to their belief in Jesus and go about working hard in His name, but all done from a spirit of fear and desire to save self, without any trust in God and no renewal of heart.

It is not enough to believe in Jesus' teachings, one must actually know Jesus as a person, as a friend, and know that if you have come to know Jesus, you have come to know the Father for they are one and at some point be won to trust such that the life of fear and selfishness is surrendered and they are reborn with a life of love and trust in Jesus and the Father.

The lesson gets this exactly right in the very next sentence:

- More than anything else, accepting Christ means a death to self, a complete surrender of self to the living Christ. *Adult SS Guide 1st Q 2026, Uniting Heaven and Earth: Christ in Philippians and Colossians*, p. 78.

Read next paragraph,

- The Living Word (Jesus) cannot be separated from the Written Word (the Bible). They are two sides of the same coin. In fact, only through Scripture can we know Jesus. We “walk” or live our lives “in Him,” meaning that we allow His Word and His Spirit to guide us in all our decisions and practices. *Adult SS Guide 1st Q 2026, Uniting Heaven and Earth: Christ in Philippians and Colossians*, p. 78.

Thoughts? I agree that those who have the Living Word Jesus living in their hearts by the Holy Spirit will not devalue, undermine, or separate themselves from the Written Word, the Bible, but in fact will cherish the Bible and partake of it regularly.

Is the reverse true however? Or can the Written Word be separated from the Living Word? Yes, in fact, the Written Word, the Bible can be promoted in such a way that it does not teach Christ. Jesus Himself said,

- You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, 40 yet you refuse to come to me to have life. John 5:39-40 NIV84.

Many don't realize this, clearly the Pharisees Christ was addressing didn't. May think that if they are diligent Bible students then they are right with Jesus.

Genuine Bible study is done with a heart to know truth, love truth, a willingness to be corrected, guided, transformed by the truth under a humble submission to the Holy Spirit.

But one can study the Bible from fear, to prove they are good, or are right, or to find texts that support their position, not to find the truth, but to use the Bible to support their understanding of things. Such Bible study does not renew the soul.

Only truth taken into the heart under the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit transforms the soul. And how can we tell if our understanding of the Bible is correct?

Because the Bible itself tells us that God has provided two other threads of evidence that our ideas about what the Bible is teaching must be compared and harmonized with—science and life experiences.

- For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. Romans 1:20 NIV84
- Taste and see that the LORD is good Psalm 34:8 NIV84
- Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.” John 20:27 NIV84

So to rightly understand God’s Written Word we have to harmonize it with reality, with God’s design laws built into the operations of the universe, nature, and life.

Then, as we do this, we internalize truth that becomes part of our being and we are freed from the spirit of fear and selfishness and recreated in the image of Christ.

The word “soul” is from the Greek *psyche* and is our unique individuality, personhood, analogous to a computer’s software. The word “spirit” is from the Greek *pneuma* and is the animating energy, breath of life, analogous to a computer’s electricity, and our body is analogous to the computer’s hardware.

When Adam sinned he corrupted his spirit with fear and selfishness. We are all born with a spirit of fear and selfishness. And that spirit, animating, motivating, energy drives us in how we think, the choices we make and the formation of our individuality, self, and character. Without rebirth, without dying to that fearful life and being reborn with the Spirit of Christ we always corrupt ourselves through our various choices, while making excuses and justifications for why it was right to do so.

After we come to Christ and surrender to Him we receive a new life, a new motive of love and trust—and the Holy Spirit then leads us in a process for our healing, transformation, maturing, sanctification how? Through the application of truth, that we must understand and THEN CHOOSE!

It is in this process our souls, our individualities, our personhoods are freed from the control of the spirit of fear and selfishness. Notice what the Bible says:

- For the **word of God is living and active**. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to **dividing soul and spirit**, joints and marrow; it judges the **thoughts and attitudes of the heart**. Hebrews 4:12 NIV84.

As we study God’s Word with a humble surrender to the Holy Spirit, truths will be brought to our hearts and minds that we understand and as we choose to embrace, accept, and apply those truths, they become encoded into the substructures of our neurons and truth by truth, as we choose them, our neurobiology changes and that changes the resonance of our brains, the emergent spiritual energy that animates and motivates us. The spirit of fear is being cut out of us, and our individuality, our souls are being freed from fear and selfishness and the spirit of truth and love is being restored within us as we follow the Holy Spirit in the internalization of God’s Word.

This is what Jesus meant when He said:

- “I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him. John 6:53-56 NIV84

This is reality, we are actually, physiologically, psychologically, spiritually, characterologically changed as we ingest the truth and choose to trust Jesus.

Consider this Bible commentary from *The Desire of Ages*:

- The Comforter is called “the Spirit of truth.” His work is to define and maintain the truth. He first dwells in the heart as the Spirit of truth, and thus He becomes the Comforter. There is comfort and peace in the truth, but no real peace or comfort can be found in falsehood. It is through false theories and traditions that Satan gains his power over the mind. By directing men to false standards, he misshapes the character. Through the **Scriptures the Holy Spirit speaks to the mind, and impresses truth upon the heart.** Thus He exposes error, and expels it from the soul. It is by the **Spirit of truth, working through the word of God, that Christ subdues His chosen people to Himself** *The Desire of Ages*, p. 671.

This is reality and why every person must be fully persuaded in their own mind. The only way you get changed, saved, healed, is for you to be won by the truth and for you to choose the truth, and for you to surrender your fear, insecurity, desire to hide and protect yourself to Jesus and receive a new life and then to daily continue in your choice to internalize truth and excise falsehoods and distortions from God’s design.

Read fifth paragraph,

- Paul clearly delineates the two alternatives open to believers. One is to remain a “planting of the Lord” (Isa. 61:3) and continue being complete in Christ by holding on to Him and His teachings. The other could be likened to an artificial plant that may look real but is actually lifeless. By adopting human philosophies and traditions, we are taken “captive” (Col. 2:8, ESV). Although Christ has set us free, it is possible to be enslaved again with a yoke of bondage (Gal. 5:1; compare Acts 15:10). *Adult SS Guide 1st Q 2026, Uniting Heaven and Earth: Christ in Philipians and Colossians*, p. 78.

This is a great description of Jesus the living Word, the Vine into whom we are grafted by faith and receive His life, His Spirit that brings us His sinless life and we are transformed in heart, mind, motive, and live His life, versus the lifeless artificial and made up imitation legal system of salvation in which one places their trust in legal pardon and adjustments in books rather than being connected to Christ in reality.

People who believe this false legal system of salvation the Bible describes as being captive in Babylon—and God calls His people out of Babylon. Yes, God has people who are not eternally lost, who are seeking Him, but their minds and hearts are held captive in the false penal legal religion in which they hide themselves from God behind all the legal mechanics and theories they have been taught.

But Jesus said the gates of hell will not prevail, We have the truth about God as our Creator and His laws are design laws, not imposed rules, and God has provided a real remedy, a real solution, a new sinless Spirit, life, that we may receive through faith so that we become the righteousness of God. And the messages is to go out calling God's people out of that penal legal system to return to worshipping God as Creator and experience freedom from the spirit of fear and selfishness, to a living trust, to maturity, to the perfection that He is offering.

TUESDAY

Read Colossians 2:11-15:

- 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, 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. 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, 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. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. Colossians 2:11–15.

What does this mean? How do you explain it?

First the circumcision of the heart, puts off the sinful nature, which is the spirit of fear and selfishness we inherited from Adam that is infecting, polluting, corrupting our souls, our individualities, our identities, our characters. Thus, when we are won to trust we surrender and our souls let go of our lives, our fear, our desire to protect self, and surrender to Jesus and are reborn with a new life of love and trust. From that point we begin living in trust and love to Jesus and advancing in truth which further transforms our soul and cuts out the remnants of the spirit of fear still influencing our hearts and minds.

Dead in uncircumcision means when we were still animated only by the spirit of fear inherited from Adam. Making us alive in Christ is speaking of Christ becoming the second Adam and the species being redeemed by His purging the spirit of fear and replacing it with His perfect Spirit of love and trust.

What does the rest mean? Canceling the written code that stood against us?

The lesson falls into the argument between the ceremonial law versus the moral law of the Ten Commandments and their emphasis is that it cannot be the Ten Commandments that were nailed to the cross. Thoughts?

What law is the law that exposes sin and confirms we are not healthy, not holy, not righteous, is it primarily the ceremonial law that does that or the Ten Commandments? So which is against us? What is being nailed to the cross?

The Ten Commandments were given to diagnose, expose, bring to light in our sinful human minds, the reality of our terminal sin condition. The Ten Commandments did not cause our terminal sin condition, it merely helped us see it. As Paul wrote he wouldn't have known sin was without the law and James wrote it is a mirror to look into.

Okay, so the Ten Commandments didn't cause or sin problem, it exposes it, then what was nailed to the cross? Something that is against us? Is the law against us?

What about what the law reveals—the sin condition, is that against us?

And did Christ nail that to the cross? Yes, Christ nailed the spirit of fear to the cross which was exposed by the Ten Commandments as corrupt and out of harmony with God and life.

How does that cancel the written code? When one is reborn, died to the sin life, the life of fear and selfishness and has the life of Christ reproduced within, such that it is no longer I that live but Christ lives in me and we become the righteousness of God, then what does the Ten Commandments find when it examines us? Nothing to condemn us for the law of God is perfectly reproduced within us. So the law's report that we are terminal, dead in trespass and sin is taken away by Christ who purged the cause of death and restored His holiness into humanity. So here is how I paraphrased it:

- By trust in him, your hearts have been cut away from everything that destroys, so the selfish motives no longer control you. This cutting out of selfishness did not come about by human effort or by works, but by the cutting power of the truth brought by Christ. Having been immersed into the truth of Christ Jesus, you have been immersed into selflessness and have died to selfishness, and through trusting in the power of God who called Christ back from the dead, you are renewed with his character and principles. When your condition was terminal, when selfishness reigned unchecked in your minds, and when your hearts were tied to the destructive cravings and practices of the world, God intervened and brought you the life-giving Remedy—Jesus Christ. He reclaimed you from your terminal condition, nullifying the pathology report that certified you as dead in sin; he made it clear that the written code, with its regulations, was only a diagnostic instrument designed to expose our terminal state and teach us the need for a true cure, and he nailed it to the cross. Through his death, he revealed the truth about God and—in his humanity—eradicated selfishness, thus he completely destroyed Satan's weapons of lies and selfishness, and triumphed over Satan at the cross. Colossians 2:11-15 REM.

WEDNESDAY

Read Colossians 2:16-19:

- 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. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ. 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. 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. Colossians 2:16-19 NIV84.

What do you think of the instruction, “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.”

What is the meaning of this?

What is Paul instructing them to actually do? He is telling them, in governance of self, to stop looking for human approval, to stop looking for others to tell them what is right or wrong, to stop looking to church leaders, theology professors, or pastors to tell them the answers and to know the truth for themselves, to know Jesus for themselves and set others free to come to their own conclusions—to set others free to think they are condemned if they want, but to stop trying to conform to the expectations of others and stop letting the views, opinions, perspectives, rejections, condemnations, and judgments of others take root in their heart and cause fear, insecurity, and doubt. To keep their eyes fixed on Christ and trust Him.

What about the warning of not following those who have false humility and follow angels?

Does that mean we shouldn't follow John who wrote Revelation or Daniel because both received messages from angels? No, why? Because John, Daniel, and the angels who brought the messages to them all point people to Jesus and the Bible, the living and written Word.

But are there messages that have millions if not billions of followers today that are supposedly come from angels but those angels supplanted the Bible and turn away from Jesus, even though they claim to believe in Jesus?

THURSDAY

Read Colossians 2:20-23:

- 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: “Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!”? These

are all destined to perish with use, because they are based on human commands and teachings. 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. Colossians 2:20-23 NIV84

Thoughts? What is Paul saying? What is the truth or principle described?

He is instructing to stop the rules oriented approach, stop reading the Bible as a code book of deeds to do or avoid doing, and embrace reality, understand God as Creator and His actual design for life and then live in harmony with God and His design laws for life. He is saying, stop thinking like children who need a list of rules to brush their teeth, do their homework, not play in the street in order to do what is right, but when you are reborn, when you are renewed in truth and love and have grown up to know God and His design laws for life, the rules are no longer needed, not because they were wrong any more than mother's rule to brush teeth before bed was wrong, but because there is no need for the rule anymore.

This is how I paraphrased it,

- So, if through trust in Christ you have died to the world's principle of survival-of-the-fittest, why act like you are still part of this world's work-to-save-yourself system? Do you think such things as what you touch, handle or taste can actually heal your mind or transform your heart? All such activities will inevitably perish, for they are completely useless in their ability to heal the mind; they are merely man-made rules (focused on human effort) and not renewal of heart that comes by trust. Such codes of conduct appear wise — with their required rituals and worship ceremonies, with their pompous and grand displays of supposed humility, and with their self-flagellation and other mortifications of the body — but they are completely void of any ability to free the heart and mind from the domination of selfishness and lust. Colossians 2:20-23 REM.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The God of Reality: Separating Truth from Fiction Seminar: August 13-16 2026 Orlando, Florida—More information coming soon. First 500 get five free meals.

REMEDY APP: Updated, many new features including the ability to listen to the audio right from the app!

AFRICA:

Healing a Broken Heart is now available in South Africa in both English and Afrikaans. You can access the Afrikaans version on our website under the Languages tab. If you are in South Africa and would like print copies, email southafrica@comeandreason.com. Our SA distribution director, Jacques Van de Heever, is also translating our blogs into Afrikaans and Swahili.

Our first shipment of *Could It Be This Simple?* and other resources has arrived in Kenya! Wycliffe has been passionately sharing this end-time message about God with great success. He and Jacques have been able to produce and get these resources into Kenya. It is through the support of you, our friends, that he has been able to do this. If you are in Kenya or know someone there who would like this book, email kenya@comeandreason.com

Thomas Wansara, in Ethiopia, has been translating blogs and some of our printed and online publications into Amharic and has created a new Facebook group, Come And Reason Ministries - Ethiopia. Reach him at ethiopia@comeandreason.com.

AUSTRALIA:

Simon and Maani Harrison Direct Come and Reason in Australia and New Zealand and have a Facebook group in Australia and Come and Reason resources available there: You can email Simon at australia@comeandreason.com

ENGLAND:

If you are interested in connecting with our team in England you can contact Michael Dragoyvich and his wife Billie Jordan at uk@comeandreason.com