

# CHRISTIAN SUPERSTITION

Colossians 2.20-23

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Colossians 2.20-23 // Matthew 15.10-20

1 Corinthians 5.9, 10 // Galatians 5.1-12

**Legalism and Moralism:** rules minus relationship; come up with our own rules that we can keep and that we can hold others to in order to gain God's good standing and favor toward us.

## THE MEANS OF GRACE

Most Christians gravitate toward spiritual disciplines without understanding the Gospel. This leads to a cycle of either self-righteous pride or self-condemning despair. Spiritual gifts should be like wells that we dig, conduits that lead us to the source of life and strength: the Gospel of God's grace.

**Grace defined:** God's unmerited favor and work in the hearts of people who deserve His wrath, brought about by the loving ministry of the Holy Spirit.

**So how do we live in, enjoy, and immerse ourselves in this grace?** The "Means of Grace" are instruments and ways that God has given to us to connect ourselves to the source of His grace: the powerful working of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The primary means of grace (and there are many "sub-categories") are three: the Word of God, prayer, and the community.

**All my fountains are in You.**

-Psalm 87.7

Far too often, we treat these instruments of grace as glorified self-help tools. We use them to better our lives, not to increase our passion, love, worship and glorification of Christ.

John 5.39-40, 15.1-11

**Spiritual disciplines can trim the roots of sin,  
but only the Gospel can pull the roots.**

-John Owen

## THE BASIS OF OUR GROWTH

We don't start our journey at the cross and into discipleship. In our discipleship, we stay connected to the cross at all times. God's desire was not to forgive us and then just tolerate us; His desire is for communion with us in all that we do.

**The greatest gift of salvation is adoption.**

-John Calvin

## NOTES:

### Other Suggested Resources:

A sermon by Tullian Tchvidjian on the greatest enemy of the Gospel: legalism.

[www.crpc.org/sermons-media/series/colossians](http://www.crpc.org/sermons-media/series/colossians)

Click on Part 11

### Daily Devotionals:

**Monday:** Colossians 2.20-23

**Tuesday:** Isaiah 1.10-20 // Matthew 15.1-9

**Wednesday:** Matthew 15.10-20 // 1 Corinthians 5.9, 10

**Thursday:** Psalm 37.4, 87.7 // John 5.38-40, 6.29

**Friday:** John 15.1-11

**Saturday:** John 17.1-26

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

### KIDS ON MISSION

Please log on to check out [www.lifemissionchurch.com](http://www.lifemissionchurch.com) and click "Kids" at the top to read more about the vision and plan we have for our kids, including Pastor Jobey's heart and his walk through of our curriculum.

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**Jesus + Nothing = Everything  
Reading Plan**

Chapter 6, pages 73-85



## SAVE.

Jesus was sent to save. We have been saved to be sent. We are sent into our community to share the Good News that Christ came to save us, and we hope to see many who find new life.

## EQUIP.

We want to equip those very people in the Word so that they can continue to grow as disciples of Christ. From our preschool to our adults, our passion is to see everyone equipped in the Gospel to live a life of freedom and joy.

## SEND.

Lastly, we then want to see those equipped people sent into their community and world. From schools and playgrounds, to families and work places, we want to see people who are spiritual leaders in their life, showing people the truth of Christ's Good News.

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## COMMUNITY GROUP HOMEWORK

Read **Colossians 2.20-23**. What stuck out to you the most or was the most impactful from the message on Sunday or from these verses? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Paul was speaking about faulty beliefs that "doing things" or even abstaining from things somehow makes people more holy or accepted by God. What are some common "superstitions" that Christians have that they do in order to feel or be seen as a "better Christian"? \_\_\_\_\_

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What are some of *your* "superstitions" or "self-made" religious practices or behaviors that you sometimes put on yourself or on others? \_\_\_\_\_

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As noble as some of these may be, how do they fly in the face of Christ and the Gospel of God's grace? \_\_\_\_\_

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Read **Isaiah 1.10-20**, **Matthew 15.1-9** and **John 5.38-40**, **6.29**. Then re-read **Colossians 2.16-23**. What is God trying to communicate to us through these passages concerning how we approach the things that we choose to do or not do? \_\_\_\_\_

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What *really* makes us holy and accepted by God? \_\_\_\_\_

If God's grace, freely given to us through Christ, is all we need for acceptance, how do we keep connected to that? \_\_\_\_\_

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Jobey talked about the three primary "means of grace" as the Word of God, prayer, and community. Write out a few different specific examples of these "means" that can bring us grace (example: Community Group, listening to sermons, etc.). \_\_\_\_\_

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Jobey also talked about how these "means" are meant to bring us to the Gospel. Using some of your examples above, explain how these things can be simply "self-made religion," such as how the Pharisees were like in **Matthew 15.1-9**. Then also explain how these "means of grace" specifically can bring you face to face with the Gospel. \_\_\_\_\_

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Why is using these as a means to the Gospel, and not as an end in themselves, important? Which of these usually have the most impact in bringing you face to face with Christ and His Gospel, bringing about a change and excitement for Him? \_\_\_\_\_