

Colossians 2:16-3:17

Freedom in Christ (Colossians 2:16-19)

- 8 “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. 11 For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. // Exodus 20:8-11
- 27 And he said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. 28 So the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath.” // Mark 2:27-28
- See Mark 3:1-6...4 And he said to them, “Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to kill?”
- 21 I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose. // Galatians 2:21
- “In the first place, I would kindly and for God’s sake request all those who see this order of service or desire to follow it: Do not make it a rigid law to bind or entangle anyone’s conscience, but use it in Christian liberty as long, when, where, and how you find it to be practical and useful.” Luther, Luther’s works, vol. 53: Liturgy and Hymns
- See Isaiah 1:10-17...New moon and Sabbath and the calling of convocations— I cannot endure iniquity and solemn assembly. Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hates. Isaiah 1:13-14
- they serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things. // Hebrews 8:5
- For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near. // Hebrews 10:1

Don’t Go back (Colossians 2:20-23)

- O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. // Galatians 3:1
- “In other words, rules and regulations do not have the power of ability to change the heart’s affections and overcome sinful desires.” Pace, Colossians.
- 6 And he said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, “‘This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; 7 in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’ 8 You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men.” // Mark 7:6-8
- 25 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. 26 You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean.” // Matthew 23:25-26

Raised with Christ (Colossians 3:1-4)

- “The conditional statement in the previous verses, “If you died with Christ,” explained that through Christ’s death they possess a corresponding freedom that releases them from legalistic obligations. This section begins with a parallel conditional statement, “If you have been raised with Christ,” which establishes the continuity of thought, transitioning from the negative cautions to the positive exhortations of Paul’s argument.” Pace, Colossians.
- “Have been raised...” Paul emphasizes the work of God in the Christian life as opposed to the false teaching of works righteousness.
- Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind // Romans 12:2
- 16 So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. 17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory

*beyond all comparison, **18** as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal. // 2 Corinthians 4:16-18*

- *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. // Galatians 2:20*
- “The description of the believer’s “hidden” life in Christ signifies our personal relationship with him, affirms the security of our salvation in him, and certifies our glorious inheritance in him that is yet to be revealed.” Pace, Colossians.

Therefore Put to Death (Colossians 3:5-11)

- ***4** Yet you have still a few names in Sardis, people who have not soiled their garments, and they will walk with me in white, for they are worthy. **5** The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels. // Revelation 3:4-5*
- *And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. // Revelation 21:2*
- *And you were dead in the trespasses and sins **2** in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— **3** among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. // Ephesians 2:1-13*
- ***9** For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, **10** and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come. // 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10*

- “Paul used these classifications to speak of the general need for salvation and the shared depravity of all people, while also identifying them both as beneficiaries of the salvation found in Christ.” Pace, Colossians.

Therefore Put on Life (Colossians 3:12-17)

- *And the angel said to those who were standing before him, “Remove the filthy garments from him.” And to him he said, “Behold, I have taken your iniquity away from you, and I will clothe you with pure vestments.” // Zechariah 3:4*
- *See 1 Corinthians 13*