**“Jesus Christ Alone”**

Going deeper in Colossians 2:16-23

**INTRODUCTION** – In the passage before this the Apostle Paul has been talking about all that has been done for you in and through Jesus Christ. Now he moves into what our response ought to be or more accurately what our response should not be.

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.* 16 So don’t let anyone pressure you about what you eat or drink, worship services, or particular religious celebrations, or sabbaths. 17 These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the substance is in Christ alone. 18 Do not let anyone cheat you out of your prize because of a false humility. Don’t join them in their worship of angels and their arrogant seeking of visions that comes from their sense of self-importance 19 and not from the Head, from whom the whole body is nourished and knit together by its joints and ligaments. We can grow healthy together only as He nourishes us. 20 Since you have died with Christ you can put all the puffed-up and childish religious stuff behind you. Don’t let yourselves get bullied by people telling you, 21 “If you don’t touch this, or don’t taste that, or don’t handle this you will be more spiritual.” 22 All the things that are here today will perish with time since they are based on the commandments and teachings of men. 23 These things certainly have the appearance of wisdom in a self-made religion, their false humility and harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value when it comes to true humility.

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. How were the things before (regulations about eating and drinking, worship service, religious celebrations and sabbaths) a shadow of what was to come in Jesus Christ?

2. What is the problem with basing your relationship with Jesus Christ on these things?

3. What do you think is the prize in verse 18? What would cheat you out of it?

4. Who is the “Head” in verse 19? What happens to the body through Him?

5. What are you now capable of because you have died with Christ?

6. In verse 22 what will perish with time? What will not perish?

7. Can you think of examples of self-made religion? What helps with growth in humility?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Ask the Lord Jesus to help you to hear His voice alone today.

\*Tell Him that He alone is your Lord and ask for His forgiveness for putting anything else ahead of Him.

\*Thank Him for setting you free to live out of love and gratitude.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

God chose to love you before you ever did anything. He wants you to respond to His grace by freely choosing to live with love, integrity, and grace through the power of the Holy Spirit. What will you choose this week?