

## IS IT MISINFORMATION, MINUTIA, OR THE MISSION?

Colossians 2:9-23

*For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,<sup>10</sup> and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.<sup>11</sup> In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ,<sup>12</sup> having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.<sup>13</sup> And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses,<sup>14</sup> by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.<sup>15</sup> He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.*

*<sup>16</sup> 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.<sup>17</sup> These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.<sup>18</sup> 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,<sup>19</sup> 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.*

*<sup>20</sup> 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—<sup>21</sup> “Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch”<sup>22</sup> (referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to human precepts and teachings?<sup>23</sup> 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.*

### When you get the sales pitch...

- How is this related to The Mission – 2:9-10 *For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,<sup>10</sup> and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.*

- The real issue is heart change vs. empty outward conformity – 2:11-14
- Is this Minutia – 2:16-17 *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. <sup>17</sup> These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.*
  - Don't let side issues cloud the real issue.
- Is this Misinformation – 2:18-19, 20-23 *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, <sup>19</sup> 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.*
  - Asceticism: severe self-discipline and avoidance of all forms of self-indulgence.
  - Worship of angels vs. Worship of God.
  - Going on and on about subjective visions vs. Going on Scripture.

*Summary: 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. – 2:23*

Q: What does have value in stopping our self-destructive or self-absorbed habits?

A: A changed heart and a redirected mind that progressively transform how we live (3:1-17).