Christ|God Visible #7 Pastor Rick Baker

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**Insufficient Religion**:

*You can’t make yourself better*

Col. 2:16-23

*If you begin with the wrong premise, you will surely arrive at the wrong conclusion.*

Incorrect worldview premise: Focusing on the external will fix the soul

*Manmade solutions to God-domain problems.* The soul cannot be fixed with an aspirin or a Kosher diet.

Applies to religion or humanistic therapy. People can’t fix what they didn’t create.

*Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul.*

*Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.* Jesus, Matt.10:28

To WHOM therefore should you be entrusting your soul (PSUCHE)—the vital you?

Beware of trading the sufficiency of Christ for the insufficiencies of human religious ideas

“THEREFORE” (v. 16)

* You have received Christ Jesus as Lord
* The part of you that craved sin was nailed to the cross
* The Law that condemned you as a Lawbreaker has been nailed to the cross by the Law-keeper
* Lesser powers and authorities have been disarmed and are no longer a threat

1. Choosing shadows over substance**--Legalism** (2:16-17)

*You must move on from religious ceremony/symbols to the final substance in Christ alone, otherwise you eliminate Christ’s cross-work for you.*

“Legalism lacks the supreme sense of worship. It obeys but it does not adore.” Geerhardus Vos

*Don’t hang your hopes of pleasing God on temporary signposts, you have the goal of your religion in Christ.*

1. Submitting to a fleshly mind over spiritual thinking**—Addicted to experiences** (2:18-19)

*You must not allow phonies to deflate your spiritual confidence and vigor in Christ.*

Those medicating and mediating their needy hearts on “spiritual” experiences have lost touch with the only Mediator—1 Tim. 2:5,6

*There is only one Mediator between God and man—Christ Jesus; all others are occupying unauthorized sacred space.*

*Those disconnected from Christ or his Body cannot possibly benefit you. At the very least, you can’t grow in love by yourself.* (Eph.4:16)

1. Choosing worldly principles over spiritual weapons**—Making a big deal of me** (2:20-23)

*The basic principles this world lives by are dead to you!*

You have died to solutions of the flesh that got you into sin in the first place.

Religious choreography—making me big and Christ small

*You simply cannot fight spiritual battles (matters of the soul/psyche) with physical weapons or defeat what only Christ can defeat. Proof is in the failed results...*

* *you can’t slay the sensual with the sensual or fight the sin by fighting the body*
* *you can’t tame the self by feeding the self*
* *you must not submit again to what Christ has replaced—deep matters of the soul cannot be fixed by the elementary things of this world*

There are no manmade solutions to God-sized problems.