

## Wednesday in the Word

### Digging Deeper

December 30, 2020

Colossians 2:20-23

### Rudiments

Some principles run through God's Word from beginning to end. They show themselves often and form the base for deeper doctrine. Today we will investigate two of them. One is the teaching and understanding that the Law was never intended as a living standard. It was instead a study in contrast between God's perfection and man's inadequacy. This concept is explained in another of Paul's letters in that the Law was a means to point us to our need for faith in God's grace and mercy ultimately fulfilled in Christ. See Galatians 3:21-26. Not only can we not live by the Law but truly we must not! The Law revealed to us our inability to keep it and our need to be free from it. Roman's 7:4-12. It seems from this passage that when we learned the true definition of right and wrong we worked all the harder at doing wrong. Why does such a battle rage within us? Continue in Romans 7:13-25. This leads us to the other principle raised in today's passage and found all through the Word.

This other principle is the war between the spirit and the flesh. The old cartoons where a character was stymied by indecision pictured an angel on one shoulder and a devil on the other. This silly image is based in truth. While we as born-again believers have a new eternal spirit and God's Holy Spirit co residing within us, we still live in the earthly tent of the flesh. We wage this war every day because in this aspect we are dichotomous creatures. We have a dual nature. We know and desire in our hearts to do good. We truly wish and attempt to do the right thing and oftentimes we succeed. But suddenly evil pops out. Why? Because our new nature is alive and well but our old nature, though counted dead, still rumbles beneath. When we are weak we allow evil thoughts to flow and when we turn from Christ we act on those thoughts, be it in word or deed. Consider some scripture. Romans 7:6, 1 Corinthians 5:7-8, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Ephesians 4:22-23. Here's a key. Hebrews 8:13. Our old nature is weakening and ready to vanish away. Look back through your walk with the Lord. You are sinning less while thinking and doing right more and more.

So reviewing our text for today we see this outline. V20. In Christ we are free from religious rules and regulations and yet we live as though we are still under the Law. V21. Old testament Law is here elevated to an idealistic self denial, arrogantly portrayed as only possible for the best among us. V22. God's Word is eternal but man's alteration of it quickly dies. We are never content to settle on the truth. V23. These carnal ordinances are all for a show to impress others. Note how Paul starts verse 20 with our death to self under Christ but moves on in 3:1 with being risen with Him. "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God." Next week we will see the positive spin on this argument.