

CHRISTIANITY IS NOT WHAT YOU DO—IT'S WHAT JESUS HAS DONE!

Grace and Peace to you from Dumaguete, "the City of Gentle People," on the island of Negros. Today is Friday, September 11, 2026. Our Bible reading today is Colossians Chapter 2. Paul begins by writing about a "great conflict." He is not talking about a conflict with the Colossians. They had never seen Paul face-to-face. Epaphras had told Paul about the believers in Colossae. The Colossians knew Paul by his reputation and had heard of his powerful preaching of GOD's Word.

The conflict Paul is talking about is a spiritual battle. He warns them about false teachers who want to add works to salvation. This is the reason there are so many religions today. Religions add some type of work to salvation, i.e., baptism, penance, giving money, feeding the poor, etc.

True Christianity is not a religion. It is a relationship with our Creator and Saviour, JESUS CHRIST. Salvation requires no work or deed on the part of the recipient. It was paid for by JESUS' blood on the Cross. (See 1st Peter 1:18-20.)

In this chapter, Paul is referring to Judaizers who sought to place believers under religious laws and observances concerning such things as food, drink, holy days, and other ordinances. Of course, today some false teachers use similar tactics to force believers to fit into their mold and mindset. Their thinking is that if you do not dress, act, and walk like them, then you must not be a true believer.

They like to judge by outward appearance. Beware of these legalists.

"...for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart." (1st Samuel 16:7)

We who are true believers died with Christ. We are free to live according to the Holy Spirit's leading, not by laws, rituals, and man's ideas. Paul concludes by asking, if you died with Christ, then why live as though you are still subject to man-made religious rules?

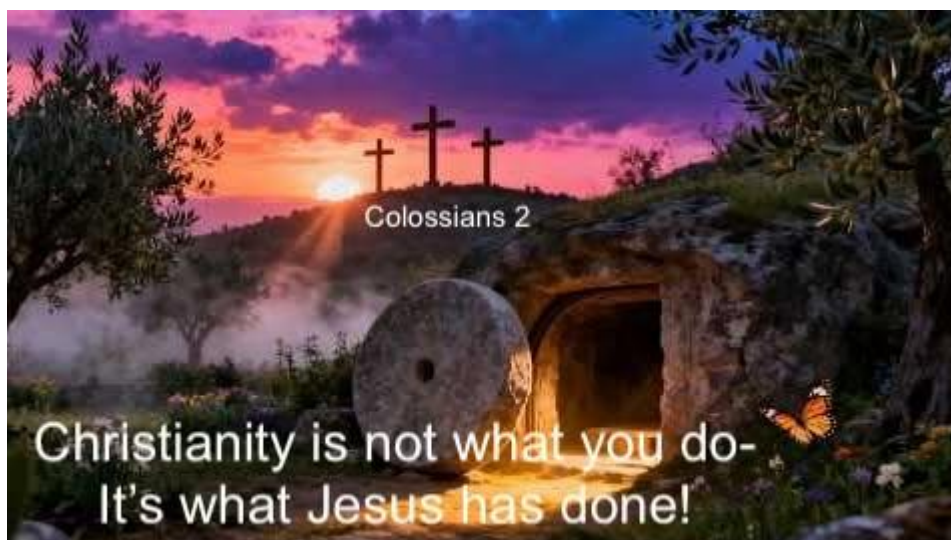
"...if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances, (Touch not; taste not; handle not; Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men?" (v.20-22)

Doing these things is not essential for salvation. Salvation is by faith in Jesus alone—plus nothing and minus nothing.

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of GOD: Not of works, lest any man should boast." (Ephesians 2:8,9)

True saving faith produces good works; good works do not produce salvation. The very next verse says:

"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works..." (Ephesians 2:10)



As true believers, we live by faith, not by keeping the law or trying to pacify legalists.

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of GOD, who loved me, and gave Himself for me." (Galatians 2:20)

Please read Colossians Chapter 2.