

II.

Body

- A. Spiritual Life is Found Only in Christ..
- B. **Spiritual Growth is Found Only in Christ**

Spiritual Growth is Found Only in Christ

A Study in Colossians

I. The Text - Colossians 2:16-23

(See Block Diagram handout)

II. The Meaning

A. Spiritual growth is not achieved through _____. **(2:16-17)**

1. Verse 16 begins with another command -
_____.
2. The conjunction _____ helps us understand the reason for this command.
3. Because believers have complete _____ in Christ, they should not feel shame for what they eat or what holidays they do not observe.
4. Believers are to look to the _____ not the _____.

B. Spiritual growth is not achieved through _____. **(2:18-19)**

1. Verse 18 also begins with another command -
_____.
2. Because this command and the previous one are parallel to each other, the conjunction, _____, also helps us understand the reason for this command.
3. Because believers have complete salvation in Christ, they should not feel _____ by enjoying _____ in life, or by not experiencing _____.

4. Believers need to be connected to the _____ to experience spiritual growth.

C. Spiritual growth is not achieved through legalism. (2:20-23)

1. Legalism makes Christ's death _____.
2. Legalism is just man made rules for being _____.
 - a) Paul's logical argument here is: If you have died with Christ to man's way of _____, why are you still _____ by these methods?
3. Legalism may appear logical and wise but it offers no help in stopping the _____ of the flesh.

III. The Application - Some thoughts on legalism

1. Legalism is not:
 - a. Holding to biblical _____.
 - What are some examples of clear commands given in the Bible?
 - b. Holding to personal _____.
 - What are some examples of personal convictions believers hold to?
 - c. _____ other people.
 - Where are we told in the bible to confront other people?

d. Exercising _____ authority.

- In what areas has God given us a mandate to exercise spiritual authority?

2. Legalism is:

a. A tendency to reduce Christianity to a list of man made rules in order to be _____ and _____ to God.

b. A desire for _____. Because the standard of the Law is perfection, the legalist must alter the law so that they can keep it. They do this through:

i. _____ conformity not _____ conformity.

- How does Matthew 5:21-22 show us how one can obey externally but not internally?

ii. Lowering the law to an _____ standard.

- How do people lower the law so that they can claim to be keeping it?

iii. Turning biblical _____ into laws.

- For example, how might some parents use an application from Psalm 1:1 to create a law for how Christians should school their kids?