

Welcome to Promise Land Bible Church
We're glad you're here!



Take the Name of Jesus with You

Hymn 231



Revive Us Again

Hymn 574



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An open book is shown from a low angle, looking up at the pages. The pages are filled with small, dense text, likely a Bible. The background is a bright blue sky with wispy white clouds. The text is centered over the book.

Call to Worship
Psalm 103:1-5

Psalm 103:1-5 Of David. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Holy, Holy, Holy

Hymn 323



O How I Love Jesus

Hymn 634





Praise and Prayer Request

Philippians 1:3-6 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Receiving of the Offering



2 Corinthians 9:5 So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you and arrange in advance for the gift you have promised, so that it may be ready **as a willing gift**, not as an exaction.

Famous Quote:

“It comes down to a question of truth. Every false religious expression is a religion of darkness. That doesn’t mean there are no good things in that faith. It’s not an effort to fail to notice the value of these things. But if Jesus is to be taken seriously when he says, ‘No one comes to the Father but through me,’ every other proposal is one of darkness.”

PAIGE PATTERSON

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Today's Message

“Hold Fast to Jesus, Deception, Part 2”

Scripture text: Colossians 2:16-23

Hold Fast to Jesus... for the Deception is thick!

The remedy ... Act 17:10-12 The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived they went into the Jewish synagogue. Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; **they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.** Many of them therefore believed, with not a few Greek women of high standing as well as men.

1 John 4:1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, **but test the spirits to see whether they are from God,** for many false prophets have gone out into the world.

BELIEVER, BEWARE!

From the flashing red signals at a railroad crossing to the skull and crossbones on a bottle of rubbing alcohol, **warnings are a part of daily life.** Children must be taught to heed warnings, and adults must be **reminded not to get too accustomed to them.**

Warnings are a matter of life or death.

The spiritual life also has its dangers and its warnings. Moses warned the Israelites to **beware of forgetting the Lord once they got settled in the Promised Land** (Deut. 6:12). The Lord Jesus often used the word *beware* (*Matt. 7:15; Mark 12:38; Luke 12:15*).

Matthew 7:15-19 "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. **You will recognize them by their fruits.** Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

Mark 12:35-40 And as Jesus taught in the temple, he said, "How can the scribes say that the Christ is the son of David? David himself, in the Holy Spirit, declared, "'The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet.' David himself calls him Lord. So how is he his son?" And the great throng heard him gladly. And in his teaching he said, "**Beware of the scribes**, who like to walk around in long robes and like greetings in the marketplaces and have the best seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at feasts, **who devour widows' houses and for a pretense make long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.**"

Luke 12:13-15 Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." But he said to him, "Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?" And he said to them, **"Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."**

Paul had already warned about the false teachers (Col. 2:8). In this section of his letter, Paul gave three warnings for us to heed if we are to enjoy our fullness in Jesus Christ.

“Let No One Judge You” (Col. 2:16–17)

This warning exposes the **danger of the legalism** of the gnostic teachers in Colossae. Their doctrines were a **strange mixture** of Oriental mysticism, Jewish legalism, and a smattering of philosophy and Christian teaching. Apparently, the Jewish legalism played a very important role. **This is no surprise, because human nature thrives in “religious duties.”** The flesh is weak when it comes to doing spiritual things (Matt. 26:41), but it is very strong when it comes to practicing religious rules and regulations. Somehow, adhering to the religious routine **inflates the ego and makes a person content in his self-righteousness.** In discussing this problem, Paul presented three important truths.

The basis for our freedom (v. 16a).

It is found in the word therefore, which relates this discussion to the previous verses. **The basis for our freedom is the person and work of Jesus Christ.** All the fullness of the Godhead dwells bodily in Him (Col. 2:9).

On the cross, He canceled the debt and the dominion of the Law (Col. 2:14).

As believers, we are under grace as a rule of life and not under Law (Rom. 6:14ff).

The believing Gentiles in Colossae never were under the Law of Moses since that **Law was given only to Israel** (Rom. 9:4).

It seems strange that, now that they were Christians, they would want to submit themselves to Jewish legalism! Paul had the same problem with the Gentiles in the churches of Galatia, and **he refuted Jewish legalism** in his letter to the Galatian believers (Gal. 3:1ff).

The person who judges a believer because that believer is not living under Jewish laws is really judging Jesus Christ.

He is saying that Christ did not finish the work of salvation on the cross, and that we must add something to it. **[DANGER, WARNING]**

He is also saying that Jesus Christ is not sufficient for all the spiritual needs of the Christian. **[DANGER, WARNING]**

The **false teachers** in Colossae **were claiming** a “deeper spiritual life” for all who would practice the Law. Outwardly, their practices seemed to be spiritual; but in actual fact, **these practices accomplished nothing spiritual.**

MODERN “WITCHES OF ENDOR” (SEE 1 SAMUEL 28) WELCOMED TO JOIN CHURCH LEADERSHIP AS PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIANS SAY “COMMUNICATING WITH THE DEAD IS PART OF THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

The Vision Church of Atlanta, Georgia, a progressive congregation, has added a psychic medium who claims to commune with the dead to their staff. Foster argues that psychic mediumship should be included among the spiritual gifts of the modern Church because James 1:17 teaches that “every good and perfect gift is from above.” [\(READ MORE\)](#)

1 Samuel 28:6-9 And when Saul inquired of the LORD, the LORD did not answer him, either by dreams, or by Urim, or by prophets. Then Saul said to his servants, **"Seek out for me a woman who is a medium, that I may go to her and inquire of her."** And his servants said to him, **"Behold, there is a medium at En-dor."** So Saul disguised himself and put on other garments and went, he and two men with him. And they came to the woman by night. And he said, "Divine for me by a spirit and bring up for me whomever I shall name to you." The woman said to him, "Surely you know what Saul has done, how he has cut off the mediums and the necromancers from the land. Why then are you laying a trap for my life to bring about my death?"

The bondage of legalism (v. 16).

Let no one tell you otherwise: **legalism is bondage!**

Peter called it a “**yoke upon the neck**” (Acts 15:10).

Act 15:10 Now, therefore, **why are you putting God to the test by placing a yoke on the neck of the disciples that neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear?**

Paul used the same image when he warned the Galatians:

Galatians 5:1 For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

These legalistic regulations had to do with foods and with eating and drinking (partaking or abstaining). Under the Old Testament system, certain foods were classified as “clean” or “unclean” (see Lev. 11). But Jesus made it clear that, of itself, food was neutral. It was what came out of the heart that made a person spiritual or unspiritual (Matt. 15:1–20).

Peter was reminded of this lesson again when he was on the housetop in Joppa (Acts 10:9ff) and when he was rebuked in Antioch by Paul (Gal. 2:11ff). “But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do” (1 Cor. 8:8, niv).

It is likely that God's instructions about foods given through Moses had physical reasons behind them as well as spiritual.

This point that Paul brings up is a different matter. If a man feels he is healthier for abstaining from certain foods, then he should abstain and care for his body. **But he should not judge others who can eat that food, nor should he make it a test of spiritual living.**

See Romans 14–15 is the key passage on this subject.

But the legalistic system not only involved diet; **it also involved days**. Once again, **this was borrowed** from the laws given through Moses. The Old Testament **Jew was commanded to keep the weekly Sabbath**, which was the seventh day of the week (Ex. 20:9–11).

It is wrong to call Sunday “the Christian Sabbath” because it is not so designated in the New Testament.

It is “the Lord’s Day” (Rev. 1:10), the first day of the week (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:2), **the day that commemorates the victorious resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead** (John 20:1, 19, 26).

The Jews also had their feast days (Lev. 25) and their special “new-moon” celebrations (see Isa. 1:13). Their religion was tied to the calendar. Now, all of this had its proper function under the old dispensation; but **it was not meant to be a permanent** part of the faith under the new dispensation (see John 1:17). **The Law was a schoolmaster** that helped to train and discipline Israel in the childhood of the nation, **preparing the people for the coming of the Messiah. Now that Jesus had come, the schoolmaster was no longer needed to perform the same functions** (Gal. 3:24–4:11).

Does this mean that the Old Testament Law has no ministry to New Testament Christians? Of course not! **The Law still reveals the holiness of God**, and in the Law Jesus Christ can be seen (Luke 24:27).

Luke 24:27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, **he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.**

1 Timothy 1:8 Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully,

The Law reveals sin and warns of the consequences of sin—but it has no power to prevent sin or redeem the sinner. Only grace can do that.

Holy Communion



The Family of God

I'm so glad to be part of the family of God

**I've been washed in the fountain, cleansed by
His blood**

Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod

For I'm part of the family, the family of God.