THE FOLLY OF MAN-MADE RELIGION: PART 2 Colossians 2:16-23

Inability to distinguish doctrine is spreading far and wide, and so long as the preacher is "clever" and "earnest," hundreds seem to think it must be all right, and call you dreadfully "narrow and uncharitable" if you hint that he is unsound!

- J. C. Ryle

1. What are the features of man-made religion? (Colossians 2:16-19)

- The tendency toward legalism

- The tendency toward spiritualism

- The consistency of independence

2. What are the failures of man-made religion? (Colossians 2:20-23)

- It is based on the temporary

- It is blind to the real need

I. Getting to Know You 1. What is the best job you ever had?

II. Into the Bible

2. Paul taught about food and drink and special days in more detail in Romans 14:1-12. From that passage, what are some reasons not to judge on the basis of those things? How does this compare to the reasons that Paul gives in Colossians 2?

3. We have already looked at Hebrews 1 as a parallel to Colossians 1 in its description of the greatness of Christ. It also talks about how superior Christ is to angels. From Hebrews 1:4-14, what are some reasons why we shouldn't worship angels?

III. Application

4. Matt spoke about how easily we can turn our traditions into spiritual laws. What are some rules that you have as personal preferences that you apply to others as if they were God's law?

5. In Colossians 2, Paul tells us not to be taken captive (verse 8), not to let others judge us (verse 16), or to let others disqualify us (verse 18). What do you see in Colossians 1 that would help you avoid having any of those things happen to you?