

## Colossians 2:15-17

15 Having disarmed **principalities and powers**, He made a **PUBLIC SPECTACLE** of them, **TRIUMPHING OVER THEM** in IT.

•**Ephesians 6:12** "For we do \_\_\_\_\_ wrestle against \_\_\_\_\_ and blood, but against \_\_\_\_\_, against \_\_\_\_\_, against the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ of this age, against \_\_\_\_\_ hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."

•**Colossians 1:16** "For in Him all things were created, both in the \_\_\_\_\_ and on earth, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, whether thrones or dominions, or \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_, ALL THINGS were created by Him, and for Him."

•**Romans 8:38-39** "For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor \_\_\_\_\_ nor \_\_\_\_\_ nor \_\_\_\_\_, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor \_\_\_\_\_ created thing, shall be able to separate us from the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

**Definition: "PRINCIPALITIES and POWERS" and "RULERS of the Darkness of this Age" -**

This refers to **Satan and his DEMONS** and their **system of POWER** over the nations and governments of this world. In Daniel 10:12-21, some of them are even named, such as the Prince of Greece, and the Prince of Persia. Daniel was not talking about the earthly, human princes of these countries, but **the spiritual forces behind the human governments. Michael, one of God's highest angels**, came to Daniel to tell him that his prayers were heard by God, but that he, Michael, was delayed in coming to Daniel, because **these demonic powers fought against him**. How often do we get discouraged in waiting for answers to our prayers, when maybe we should be doing some spiritual warfare against Satan, as he might be delaying the answer?

•**Daniel 10:12-13** "Then he said to me, 'Do not \_\_\_\_\_, Daniel, for from the first day that you \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_ to understand, and to \_\_\_\_\_ yourself before your \_\_\_\_\_, your \_\_\_\_\_ were heard; and I have come because of your words (prayers). But the \_\_\_\_\_ of the kingdom of \_\_\_\_\_ withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief \_\_\_\_\_, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.'"

•**Revelation 12:7-11** "And \_\_\_\_\_ broke out in \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and his \_\_\_\_\_ fought against the dragon; and the \_\_\_\_\_ and his \_\_\_\_\_ fought, and they did not prevail (were not strong enough), nor was a place found for them in \_\_\_\_\_ any longer. So the great \_\_\_\_\_ was cast out (thrown down), that serpent of old, [who is] called the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, who \_\_\_\_\_ the whole world; he was cast (thrown down) to the \_\_\_\_\_, and his \_\_\_\_\_ were cast out with him."

•**I Corinthians 2:6-8** "However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this \_\_\_\_\_, nor of the \_\_\_\_\_ of this \_\_\_\_\_, who are coming to nothing. But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the \_\_\_\_\_ wisdom which God ordained \_\_\_\_\_ the ages for our glory, which none of the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ knew; for had they known, they would not have \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord of glory."

•**Colossians 1:13** "He has delivered us from the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ and translated us into the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Son of His love."

**Definition: "WE DO NOT WRESTLE against FLESH and BLOOD"** — Our struggle and warfare is NOT against HUMAN ENEMIES, but against the spiritual forces of EVIL (demons) that are INFLUENCING those people. Praise God! Jesus gave us His authority over Satan and his demons, so we don't have to fight the battle in our own strength.

•**Luke 10:19** "Behold, I give unto you \_\_\_\_\_ to tread on \_\_\_\_\_ and scorpions, and over \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ shall by any means hurt you."

**Definition: "A PUBLIC SPECTACLE of them, TRIUMPHING OVER THEM in IT"** – First of all, in the phrase "TRIUMPHING OVER THEM in IT", the "IT" is the **CROSS (see verse 14) of Jesus Christ!** When Jesus took our punishment on the cross for us, and then rose from the dead, He triumphed (won the battle) over Satan and all his demons. The "PUBLIC SPECTACLE" is a reference to what would happen when the king of one nation would overpower another nation, winning a war between them, **and then would PARADE the fallen soldiers and king of the defeated nation in front of his own people.** The struggle between God and Satan over the souls of men has been going on since Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden. The first prophecy regarding the fight between Jesus and Satan is in Genesis 3:15, where it says the seed of the woman (the virgin-born Messiah) would crush the head of the serpent (Satan). Wow! **Now, at the cross, SATAN has RECEIVED his DEATH SENTENCE, but it hasn't been carried out yet,** and Satan is still running around loose on this earth until Jesus returns in power and glory and **finally casts Satan into hell for all eternity.** Jesus has triumphed (won the victory) over Satan, but we are still in that war and struggle with him and his demons here on earth until Jesus returns. After Jesus returns to the earth and sets up His kingdom forever, Satan and his demons will be cast into the Lake of Fire. When Jesus walked on earth, some of the demons thought Jesus was here to destroy them right then, and **they cried out, "Have you come here to destroy us before the time?"**

•**Matthew 8:28-29** "When He had come to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ men, coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass that way. And suddenly they cried out, 'What have we to do with You, \_\_\_\_\_, You \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_? Have you come here to \_\_\_\_\_ us \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_?'"

•**Romans 16:20** "And the \_\_\_\_\_ of peace will \_\_\_\_\_ under your \_\_\_\_\_ shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen."

16-17 Therefore **let no one JUDGE you in FOOD or DRINK,** or in regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, **which are a shadow of things to come,** but the substance is of Christ.

•**Romans 14:1-4** "Receive one who is \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_, but not to disputes over doubtful things. For one \_\_\_\_\_ he may \_\_\_\_\_ all things, but he who is \_\_\_\_\_ eats only \_\_\_\_\_. Let not him who \_\_\_\_\_ despise him who does \_\_\_\_\_ eat, and let \_\_\_\_\_ him who does not eat \_\_\_\_\_ him who eats; for God has received him. Who are you to \_\_\_\_\_ another's \_\_\_\_\_? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for \_\_\_\_\_ is able to make him stand."

•**Galatians 4:9-19** "But now after you have known God, or rather are known by God, how is it that you turn \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ and

\_\_\_\_\_ elements, to which you desire again to be in \_\_\_\_\_?  
You \_\_\_\_\_ days and \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and  
years.”

**Definition: “Therefore LET NO ONE JUDGE you”** – Whenever you see the word “therefore”, you need to read the verses above it to see what it is THERE FOR. Paul has just explained that **Jesus took our sins and trespasses against God’s law on Himself on the cross**, and that Satan has been given the death penalty, and we will have the final victory over Satan and sin. **What wonderful news! THEREFORE**, or because of all this, **no one has a RIGHT to JUDGE us** in regards to the Mosaic Law, or any other religious rules or regulations, **because we are SAVED by our FAITH in JESUS CHRIST**, and NOT by any of those things! Verse 17 says **these things “are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.”** Before Jesus came to be our Messiah and die on the cross for our sins, all these things were a part of God’s law for the Israelites. **They DIDN’T have Jesus Christ, but WE DO!** They only had a “shadow” or symbols of things pointing the way to Christ, but **we have the “substance” or the REAL THING - Jesus Christ Himself!** The shadows and symbols are no longer needed, so they must pass away, and we must cling to **Jesus Himself, and our NEW LIFE in HIM.** Our new life in Christ is not to be wrapped up in observing dietary laws and regulations, or in observing certain holy days, whether Jewish or otherwise. In fact, the word of God says that **we, as Believers in Jesus Christ, are actually DEAD to the Law, and the Law is DEAD to us.**

•**Romans 7:4-6** “Therefore, my brethren, you also have become \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ through the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, that you may be married to another, even to Him who was \_\_\_\_\_ from the \_\_\_\_\_, that we should bear \_\_\_\_\_ to God. For when we were in the flesh, the passions of sins which were aroused by the law were at work in our members to bear fruit to death. But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ and not in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the letter (the written Mosaic Law).”

•**Romans 6:3-4** “Or do you not know that as many of \_\_\_\_\_ as were \_\_\_\_\_ into \_\_\_\_\_ were baptized into His \_\_\_\_\_? Therefore we were \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ through baptism into \_\_\_\_\_, that just as Christ was \_\_\_\_\_ from the \_\_\_\_\_ by the glory of the Father, even so \_\_\_\_\_ also should \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.”

•**Romans 14:14-18** “I know and am \_\_\_\_\_ by the Lord Jesus that there is nothing \_\_\_\_\_ (in regards to food); but to \_\_\_\_\_ who \_\_\_\_\_ anything to be \_\_\_\_\_, to \_\_\_\_\_ it is \_\_\_\_\_. Yet if your brother is \_\_\_\_\_ because of your \_\_\_\_\_, you are no longer \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_. Do not destroy with your \_\_\_\_\_ the one for whom Christ died. Therefore, do not let your good be spoken of as evil; for the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ and drink, but \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_. For he who \_\_\_\_\_ Christ in these things is \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ and approved by men.”

**Definition: “If your brother is GRIEVED because of your FOOD, you are no longer WALKING in LOVE”** – This doesn’t mean we have to let other people decide what we can or can’t eat, it just means **don’t flaunt your beliefs in front of, or EAT in front of, the “weaker brother” who thinks he shouldn’t eat certain things.** If you are convinced that all foods are “clean”, go ahead and eat them in the privacy of your own home, or with others of the same beliefs. I remember an example of this from a Bible study group I used to attend. There was a husband and wife who were Jewish

Believers in Christ, and they came from a background where they did not eat blood. Another couple was Hungarian, and they were used to eating something from their culture called “blood sausage”, and when they mentioned this to the Jewish couple, they were offended. There started to be an argument in the group over whether it was okay or not okay to eat blood sausage (sounds horrible to me, anyway), but the leader of the group cut it off. According to Romans 14, God doesn’t care if we eat blood sausage or not, but **He does care about our getting into arguments and divisions over such silly things.** If we as BROTHERS and SISTERS in Christ are arguing and dividing over foolish things like what we can or can’t eat, that is NOT LOVING one another as Christ loved us. And as much as we are told not to judge one another, **God Himself in His word calls the one who is overly concerned about food and dietary regulations the “WEAKER” brother,** and says he is WEAK in FAITH.

•**Romans 14:19-22** “Therefore let us \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ which make for \_\_\_\_\_ and the things by which one may \_\_\_\_\_ another. Do not \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ for the sake of \_\_\_\_\_. All things indeed are pure, but it is evil for the man who \_\_\_\_\_ with offense. It is good neither to eat \_\_\_\_\_ nor drink \_\_\_\_\_ nor do \_\_\_\_\_ by which your brother \_\_\_\_\_ or is \_\_\_\_\_ or is made \_\_\_\_\_. Do you have \_\_\_\_\_? Have it to \_\_\_\_\_ before God. \_\_\_\_\_ is he who does \_\_\_\_\_ condemn \_\_\_\_\_ in what he approves.”

•**Romans 13:8-10** “Owe no man anything except to \_\_\_\_\_ one \_\_\_\_\_, for he who \_\_\_\_\_ another has \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_. For the commandments, ‘You shall not commit adultery,’ ‘You shall not murder,’ ‘You shall not steal,’ ‘You shall not bear false witness,’ ‘You shall not covet,’ and if there is any other commandment, are \_\_\_\_\_ summed up in this saying, ‘You shall \_\_\_\_\_ your neighbor as yourself.’ \_\_\_\_\_ does no harm to a neighbor; therefore \_\_\_\_\_ is the fulfillment of the law.”

•**John 15:12 & 17** “This is My \_\_\_\_\_, that you \_\_\_\_\_ one another as I have \_\_\_\_\_ you.” (Verse 17) “These things I \_\_\_\_\_ you, that you \_\_\_\_\_ one \_\_\_\_\_.”

**Definition: “In regarding a FESTIVAL or a NEW MOON or SABBATHS”** – The Bible tells us NOT to JUDGE one another in regard to a “holy day” (holiday) or setting aside special days to observe for the Lord. Therefore, no one should judge you or me for either observing these days or not observing them. This applied to the Jewish holy days in Bible times, and it applies to some of our modern holidays, also. We celebrate Resurrection Sunday, which some people call Easter, and it’s sometimes just easier to say “Easter.” As for Christmas, December 25<sup>th</sup> was probably NOT the day Jesus was born, and we are not told in Scripture that we are supposed to celebrate His birthday, on any day, one way or the other. However, most of our society celebrates Christmas, and **at least gives some recognition of Jesus’ birth as the origin of the holiday. We as Christians are FREE to CELEBRATE it if we CHOOSE** (read all of Romans chapter 14, Colossians 2:16-23, and Galatians 5:13). Romans 14:5-6 tells us how we are to look at the celebrating of various holy days. **If we observe it “as unto the Lord”** and use every opportunity to witness for Jesus Christ during the Christmas season, we can celebrate it in a way that honors God. If we just buy into the worldly, selfish, materialistic way of celebrating Christmas, with drinking parties, the emphasis on Santa Claus rather than Jesus, and getting into debt to buy expensive presents, then no, that does not honor God.

•**Romans 14:5-6** “One person esteems (honors) one \_\_\_\_\_ above \_\_\_\_\_; another esteems \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ alike. Let each be fully \_\_\_\_\_ in his own mind. He who \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_, observes it to the \_\_\_\_\_; and he who does not \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_, to the \_\_\_\_\_.”

\_\_\_\_\_ he does not observe it.....”