



**Pulling the Weeds
that hinder
Spiritual Growth**

NorthRidge Church

Dr. M. David Myers

March 1, 2020

Therefore, do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ. – Col. 2:16-17

Our spiritual growth can be stunted, or even choked to death by the weeds that often resemble spirituality. It comes in various forms, legalism, traditionalism, ascetism, or an elevation of spiritual experience. Paul reminds the Colossians and us that we have all we need in a relationship with Christ and we need to be aware of those who challenge us to add anything to that relationship.

Be Aware; we need to ... Col. 2:9-23

I. Be Reminded of our _____ ... vs. 9-15

A few declarations to illustrate spiritual position ...

- You are _____ in Christ (9-10)
- You are _____ in Christ (11-13)
- You are _____ in Christ (13-14)
- You are _____ in Christ (15)

II. Resist the Lure of _____ ... vs. 16-23

- Resist Judgment Based on _____ (16-17)
- Reject the False Authority of _____ (18-19)
- Refrain from the Authority of _____ (20-23)

Let's Consider ...

- I.** Spirituality is measured by _____ and _____ to Scripture – not by our adherence to man-made rules and traditions.
- II.** Adding a little extra to our faith journey is like Armor All, it may _____.
- III.** As a follower of Christ, we will continue to change our practices, thoughts, and behaviors because growing Christians are continually _____.

Truth for Life

For the week of March 1, 2020

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. This week we heard how man-made rules and traditions can be confused with what is actually found in the Bible. Looking back at years past, have you ever found yourself believing a rule, lifestyle choice or moral obligation only to later realize it is nowhere to be found in Scripture? If so, explain.

Why do you think most of us change or at least have a season of change that tends to include some rebellion?

2. A man-made rule may actually begin with a verse and personal application that is helpful at the time. The problem occurs, as we heard this weekend, when we expect others to live by it also. Below are a number of verses that contain some important truths to help us live a healthy Christian life.

Hebrews 10:25 Psalm 119:11 Philippians 4:8 Colossians 4:2

As you read each one, write down

- The truth it speaks of
 - How you might apply it in your own life
 - And a legalistic rule or expectation that could be put on others.
3. One of the goals in almost any kind of competitive sport or racing is to maximize your effectiveness by cutting away anything that holds you back and focusing on what really matters. Similar to this, one of the goals of this weekend's teaching was to free us up to focus on the issues that really matter when it comes to following Jesus. The Christian life is as simple as following and obeying. Read the following ...Romans 8:5-8, Galatians 5:13-15, and James 4:17. How do these verses affect your definition of what it means to follow and obey?
 4. Here are some more challenging questions that will be great to ponder among your small group.
 - a. Give some modern examples of religious rules that often take on a status equal to Scripture. Are all such rules bad? Why/why not?
 - b. What are some specific ways that we as evangelicals are prone to fall into spiritual pride? Can being a rule follower be one of those ways?



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Be Aware; we need to ... Col. 2:9-23

I. Be Reminded of our **Spiritual Position** ... vs. 9-15

A few declarations to illustrate spiritual position ...

- You are **Complete** in Christ (9-10)
- You are **Alive** in Christ (11-13)
- You are **Forgiven** in Christ (13-14)
- You are **Victorious** in Christ (15)

II. Resist the Lure of **Spiritual Performance** ... vs. 16-23

- Resist Judgment Based on **Externals** (16-17)
- Reject the False Authority of **Experience** (18-19)
- Refrain from the Authority of **Religious Rules** (20-23)

Let's Consider ...

- I. Spirituality is measured by **character** and **obedience** to Scripture – not by our adherence to man-made rules and traditions.
- II. Adding a little extra to our faith journey is like Armor All, it may **make things worse**.
- III. As a follower of Christ, we will continue to change our practices, thoughts, and behaviors because growing Christians are continually **being transformed**.

1. **This week we heard how man-made rules and traditions can be confused with what is actually found in the Bible. Looking back at years past, have you ever found yourself believing a rule, lifestyle choice or moral obligation only to later realize it is nowhere to be found in Scripture? If so, explain.**

Why do you think most of us change or at least have a season of change that tends to include some rebellion?

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