

Dangerous Threats (Pt. 3)

Colossians 2:20–23

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Pastor Wes – November 30th, 2025

Main Idea: Reject any, and all, Christ-less doctrines that threaten your Christian growth.

Outline: Paul warns us about three, dangerous threats

I. Threat One – Legalism (vv. 16–17)

II. Threat Two – Mysticism (vv. 18–19)

III. Threat Three – Asceticism (vv. 20–23)

- A. Asceticism enslaves you all over again to the world
- B. Asceticism focuses your attention on non-essentials
- C. Asceticism builds upon man-made commands
- D. Asceticism fails to make one holy

1. In your own words, what is “asceticism,” and how does it compare/contrast with legalism?

2. What is the primary danger of asceticism and what are some of the examples seen in the church today? (1 Timothy 4:3)

3. Where does asceticism find its source—in God’s commands or man’s? (v. 22) What does this teach us about our duty to know and study Scripture?

4. List the ways asceticism focuses one’s attention on the non-essentials of life? Why do these “non-essentials” become distractions in one’s proper growth in Christ? (vv. 21–22a; Romans 14:16-17)



5. Why is focusing solely on externals not adequate to combat the sinful flesh? (v. 23)
6. Think through Jerry Bridges' illustration of the airplane. What does it mean that we need grace to live the Christian life? Does such grace mean believers are free to pursue sin? Why or why not? (Rom 6)
7. What does it mean that we need discipline to live the Christian life? How does the biblical description of fighting sin, fighting for self-control, and even denying the body some things in this world differ from what Paul is describing here? (1 Tim 4:7–8)
8. How does a believer balance grace and discipline in the Christian life? Where do you struggle with this balance?
9. What are the wrong ways to enjoy God's blessings in this world? (Matt 6:19–21; Luke 12:16–21; Rom 1:21–23; 1 Tim 4:1–5)
10. What are the biblical ways to receive and enjoy God's blessing in the world and avoid spiritual sabotage? (Psalm 4:7; 16:10; 73:25–26; 103:1–5; Matt. 25:14–30; 1 Tim. 4:1–5)
11. How do you need to better receive and enjoy the benefits God has given?

