

Dangerous Threats (Pt. 1)

Colossians 2:16–17

—

Pastor Wes – November 9th, 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)

- A. A Clear Command (v. 16)
- B. A Compelling Reason (v. 17)
 - 1. Because in Jesus our Salvation is Complete
 - 2. Because in Jesus the Law has been Fulfilled

1. What does the “Therefore” in v. 16 teach us about the unity between theology and application (cf. Rom 12:1; Gal 5:1; Eph 4:1)? What are the dangers of divorcing doctrine from duty, or duty from doctrine?
2. Describe what legalism isn’t. How does it differ from legitimate Christian growth and fruit bearing? (Psalm 119:5)
3. Describe what legalism is. How does it contrast with the message of the Gospel?
4. What are common forms of legalism we see in the world? What about the church?



5. Why does legalism pose such a dangerous threat to a life of faith in Christ?

6. In response to legalism's dangerous threat, what should our response be according to v. 16?
Does this mean Christians have no right to judge one another whatsoever? How and when might we properly judge one another?

7. With question 6 in mind, what, then, does it mean when Paul says "we are not to allow anyone to act as our judge?" How might this practically play out in the Christian life?

8. One area where legalism might rise in a church is in matters of Christian liberty. Look at Romans 14–15 and 1 Corinthians 8–10 together. What responsibilities do Christians have to one another when we disagree on matters of conscience?

9. V. 17 says that the Law was a shadow, but the substance is to be found in Jesus. What does this mean? What impact does this have on our lives as Christians?

