

**Soaring Oaks Presbyterian Church: Adult Bible Study Questions for 1/7/2007**  
**Colossians 2:16 – 3:4**

**Read the entire passage**

**1. Read Colossians 2:16-17.**

**(a) The Law God gave to Israel made their culture distinctively different from that of the other nations around them. God specified certain dietary rules, and he gave them a set of Holy days that the nation was to keep to remember and honor God together. These things were shadows, types, or figures that pointed to Christ. Look up the following verses and briefly note the focus of each ordinance along with how it points to Christ:**

**(1) Passover [Exodus 12:1-11; 1 Corinthians 5:6-7; John 1:29-36; and Revelation 5:12]**

**(2) Day of Atonement [Exodus 30:10; Leviticus 23:26-27; Romans 3:21-26; and Hebrews 9:7-14]**

**(3) Kosher (blood drained from meat) [Leviticus 17:10-11; John 1:4, 5:26, 6:53-57; and Romans 3:21-26]**

**(4) Sabbath [Genesis 2:2; Exodus 20:8; Matthew 11:28-30; Mark 2:23-28 ; and Hebrews 4:1-11]**

**2. Read Colossians 2:18-19.**

**Men added layer upon layer, detail upon detail, to God's Law. These were rules made by men, not God (Matthew 15:1-9).**

**(a) The word "asceticism" is "the practice of strict self denial as a means of religious discipline" (Webster's). How would this practice differ from the self-control that God commends to us in, for example, Galatians 5:22-24?**

**(b) "Worship of angels" was sometimes based on the view that humans are not worthy to enter God's presence (sounds humble doesn't it), so angels were worshiped instead as intermediaries. Other reasons for angel worship may also have been in Paul's thoughts as he wrote to the Colossians. What do you learn from 1 Timothy 2:5-6 and Hebrews 10:19-22 in relation to this issue?**

**(c) Paul says these ideas arise from a "sensuous (fleshly or sinful) mind." Use Romans 8:7, 1 Corinthians 2:14-16, and Colossians 1:18 to explain why these people's ideas lead away from God rather than toward God.**

**3. Read Colossians 2:20-23**

**(a) Paul tells us that worldly ideas of spirituality and godliness have “no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.” Read 2 Timothy 3:1-5 in this regard and suggest how an (outward) “appearance” of godliness could leave the door open to the sins listed there.**

**(b) What sins in your life seem to be unfettered by the godly things you pursue? How might you change things so the power of God is not denied but is brought against the sins that so easily entangle?**

**(c) Prepare to share an example of self-discipline that God has used to draw you near and deliver you from a previously persistent area of sin. Of course, this sharing should be suitable for a public setting.**

**4. Read Colossians 3:1-4**

**(a) Read Ephesians 2:4-6 and decide whether you think it should be difficult for a child of God (one born again according to John 1:12-13 and 3:1-7) “to seek the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.”**

**(b) Re-read Colossians 3:3-4 and take them with you to wait on the Lord for a few minutes in prayer. If you would like to, come on Sunday prepared to share what you found there.**