

CONTRASTS & COMPARISONS

“It’s Right in Front of You”

Jeff Wall

False human teachings
External circumcision
Dead in sin
Legal code condemned us
Evil authorities over us
Shadows

True teachings of Christ
Internal circumcision
Alive in Christ
Forgiveness of sin
Christ’s triumph over them
Reality

I. False human teachings (vs. 8, 18-23)

“take you captive” _____ (vs. 8)

There were 3 philosophies that threatened these young Christians:

- Mysticism (vs. 18)
- Asceticism (vs. 20-23)
- Legalism (vs. 16)

True teachings of Christ (vs. 8-10)

When I have Christ, I have _____

II. External circumcision (vs. 11-13)

Circumcision symbolized: _____

Internal circumcision (vs. 11-13)

Romans 8:28, 29a (NIV) *“A man is not a Jew if he is only one outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. No, a man is a Jew if he is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code...”*

Baptism symbolizes: _____

III. Legal code condemned us (vs. 14)

The purpose of the Law: _____

Gal. 3:24 (NIV) *“So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith.”*

Forgiveness of sin (vs. 14)

Romans 8:1, 2 (NIV) *“Therefore, there is now NO condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.”*

IV. Evil authorities over us (v. 15)

Ephesians 6:12 (NIV) *“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”*

Christ’s triumph over them (vs. 15)

Ephesians 4:8-10 (NIV) *“This is why it says, ‘When He ascended on high, He led captives in His train and gave gifts to men.’ (What does ‘He ascended’ mean except that He also descended to the lower, earthly regions? He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.)”*

VI. Shadows (vs. 16, 17)

What is a “New Moon celebration”?

Hebrews 10:1 (NIV) *“The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming – not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship.”*

Reality (vs. 16, 17)

Hebrews 7:18, 19, 22, 25 (NIV) *“The former regulations set aside because they are weak and useless (for the law made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God... because of this oath, Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant... Therefore, He is able to save completely those who come to God through Him...”*

FOR FURTHER THOUGHT...

In what ways am I trying to force God to accept me?
What traditions am I holding onto that are only shadows?
Do I see myself “complete” in Jesus, lacking nothing?