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## Study Page: Col. 2:16-19

### Growth That Is From God

#### Reading Colossians 2:16-19

Sometimes the personal criticism we receive from others is constructive. Even if not given with a perfect attitude, what our critic says can help us discover some flaw or sin. When we deal with that, we can say that the criticism had value. We should always be open to constructive criticism or judgment.

In some cases, however, our critics are wrong and their ill-conceived judgments should not be taken seriously or applied.

In Colossae, there was a false religious system that was being advanced that included judging people negatively without any basis given by God.

For example, if someone says to me: "You are telling lies," and I am guilty – that judgment is based on God's requirement of honesty. I should take that seriously because of the origin of the principle I'm violating.



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However, if someone says to me: "You are not observing the religious days my religion dictates." Or, "You are not eating what I religiously consume. Your menu is not like mine." Those judgments we should not take seriously or apply. "...let no one pass judgment on you" in these matters – where God has not directed. God is the One who gets to set the standard, not man.

There were various precepts and observances of a former generation, still being imposed on Christians in Colossae. It created confusion for new Christians and agitation for others. A false view of what being a Christian is all about was being vigorously promoted. In this passage, it is like Paul saying: Don't let them tell you what to do. God has revealed what you

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should do through Christ and His apostles. It is not just a matter of people being misguided or false teachers being aggressive. If we let these human impositions govern us, we sever our relationship with our Head, Jesus Christ.

You can't serve Christ alongside other masters. You can't follow His teaching and attempt to supplement His teaching with the vain imaginations that come from the minds of men.

As members of the body of Christ, we receive our nourishment from Him. Doctrines and commandments of men do not nourish us, but can, when obeyed, take us away from our true Head.

So, let no one judge you or disqualify you. Hold fast to the head!