

# NAILED TO THE CROSS

Sabbath Lounge  
Looks at Colossians 2

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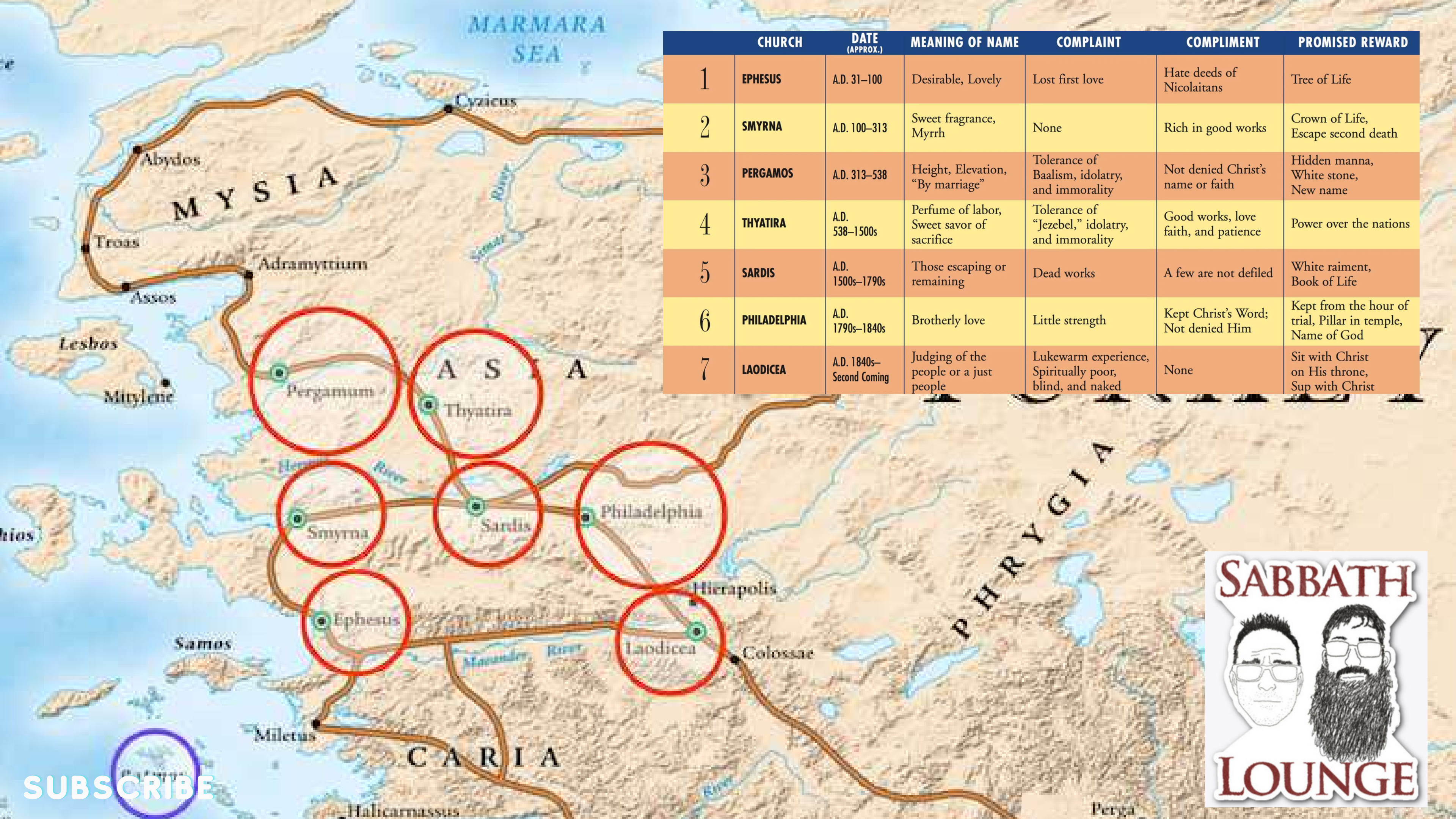
**INTRO**

**Colossians 2**

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	CHURCH	DATE (APPROX.)	MEANING OF NAME	COMPLAINT	COMPLIMENT	PROMISED REWARD
1	EPHESUS	A.D. 31-100	Desirable, Lovely	Lost first love	Hate deeds of Nicolaitans	Tree of Life
2	SMYRNA	A.D. 100-313	Sweet fragrance, Myrrh	None	Rich in good works	Crown of Life, Escape second death
3	PERGAMOS	A.D. 313-538	Height, Elevation, "By marriage"	Tolerance of Baalism, idolatry, and immorality	Not denied Christ's name or faith	Hidden manna, White stone, New name
4	THYATIRA	A.D. 538-1500s	Perfume of labor, Sweet savor of sacrifice	Tolerance of "Jezebel," idolatry, and immorality	Good works, love faith, and patience	Power over the nations
5	SARDIS	A.D. 1500s-1790s	Those escaping or remaining	Dead works	A few are not defiled	White raiment, Book of Life
6	PHILADELPHIA	A.D. 1790s-1840s	Brotherly love	Little strength	Kept Christ's Word; Not denied Him	Kept from the hour of trial, Pillar in temple, Name of God
7	LAODICEA	A.D. 1840s-Second Coming	Judging of the people or a just people	Lukewarm experience, Spiritually poor, blind, and naked	None	Sit with Christ on His throne, Sup with Christ

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# PAUL'S LETTERS

*keep in mind these are personal letters.*

*Paul wrote to specific people, specific locations, specific moments in time.*

*He did not claim to be "re-writing" the Bible.*



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# BACKGROUND

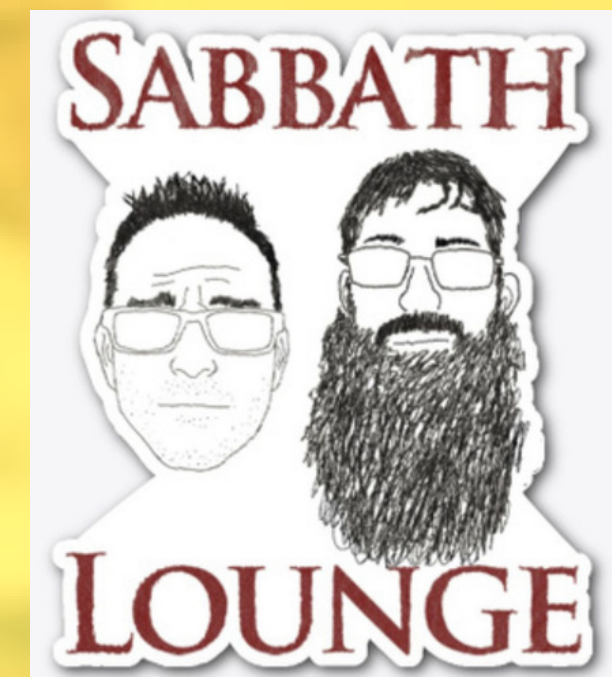
Colossae was possibly the smallest of the three cities in the valley. The letter was most likely sent to the assembly there because of the personal connections of Paul to Epaphras, Philemon, and Onesimus, and because Onesimus was returning to Philemon in Colossae with Tychius (Colossians 4:7-9; Philemon 10). Both Philemon, who was a church leader and host, and Onesimus, were members of the church in Colossae (Philemon 1-2; Colossians 4:9).



# BACKGROUND

The problems in Colossae were the adoption of Hellenistic philosophy, observation of rituals and laws such as food/drink, festivals, new moons, and Sabbaths, worship of angels, false visions, asceticism, mysticism, and other man made religious practices.

\*\*\*(Arnold, The Colossian Syncretism; Sokupa, "The Calendric Elements in Colossians 2:16"; Williams, "The Cult of the Angels at Colossae"; cf. Nag Hammadi library for gnostic belief that angels were creators; cf. Book of Jubilees for placation of angels and asceticism; cf. Book of Enoch for visions).



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# BACKGROUND

*Proof of Large Jewish Population.*

*The large sum confiscated by proconsul Flaccus in Laodicea about 62 BC from the Temple tax suggests a significant population of Jews in the area.*

\*\*\* <https://www.jstor.org/stable/1087696> Flaccus and the Jews of Asia (Cicero "Pro Flacco" 28.67-69)  
Anthony J. Marshall Phoenix Vol. 29, No. 2 (Summer, 1975), pp. 139-154 (16 pages) Published By:  
Classical Association of Canada



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# HELLENIC FAITH

*The assembly was coming out of Hellenic faith. This was the way of life in all of Rome at the time.*



## Holidays

Holidays are an important part of Hellenic religious life across all of the Mediterranean- whether Greek or Roman. For the sake of modernity, relevant Graeco-Roman holidays will be adapted to the C...

Hellenic Faith / Aug 12, 2017

[https://hellenicfaith.com/holidays/?utm\\_source=canva&utm\\_medium=iframe](https://hellenicfaith.com/holidays/?utm_source=canva&utm_medium=iframe)





# JUDAIZERS

*The assembly was coming out of this. They were bringing the baggage of two man made systems.*

*Some clinging to Judaism and Pharisaical traditions, while others were leaving the man made teaching of Babylon.*



# EXODUS

*Just like the people before them they were lost  
in "Egypt".*

*They had forgotten the ways of Yah. They  
needed to be reminded of how to be a Holy  
and set apart people.*





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**PART 1**

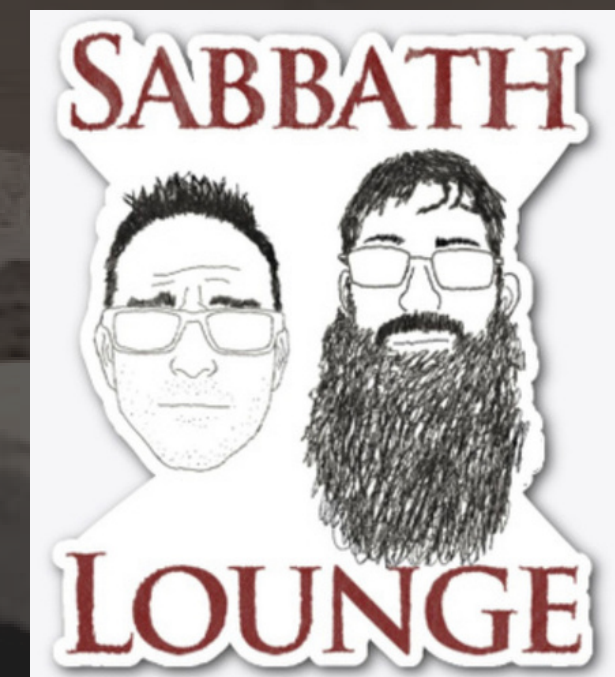
**Colossians 2**

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***In Torah apologetics we often hear that Colossians 2 is proof text that the law has been done away with, and the words typically used are that the law was "nailed to the cross."***



**Nailed  
To The Cross**

Sabbath Lounge  
Looks at Colossians 2

***But is this what Colossians 2 really says?***



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COLOSSIANS 2:14 - BLOTTING OUT THE HANDWRITING OF ORDINANCES THAT WAS AGAINST US, WHICH WAS CONTRARY TO US, AND TOOK IT OUT OF THE WAY, NAILING IT TO HIS CROSS.



## Colossians 2

### Names of God Bible

2 I want you to know how hard I work for you, for the people of Laodicea, and for people I have never met. 2 Because they are united in love, I work so that they may be encouraged by all the riches that come from a complete understanding of Christ. He is the mystery of God. 3 God has hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge in Christ. 4 I say this so that no one will mislead you with arguments that merely sound good. 5 Although I'm absent from you physically, I'm with you in spirit. I'm happy to see how orderly you are and how firm your faith in Christ is.

6 You received Christ Yeshua the Lord, so continue to live as Christ's people. 7 Sink your roots in him and build on him. Be strengthened by the faith that you were taught, and overflow with thanksgiving.

8 Be careful not to let anyone rob you of this faith through a shallow and misleading philosophy. Such a person follows human traditions and the world's way of doing things rather than following Christ.



9 All of God lives in Christ's body, 10 and God has made you complete in Christ. Christ is in charge of every ruler and authority. 11 In him you were also circumcised. It was not a circumcision performed by human hands. But it was a removal of the corrupt nature in the circumcision performed by Christ. 12 This happened when you were placed in the tomb with Christ through baptism. In baptism you were also brought back to life with Christ through faith in the power of God,[a] who brought him back to life.

13 You were once dead because of your failures and your uncircumcised corrupt nature. But God made you alive with Christ when he forgave all our failures. 14 He did this by erasing the charges that were brought against us by the written laws God had established. He took the charges away by nailing them to the cross. 15 He stripped the rulers and authorities of their power and made a public spectacle of them as he celebrated his victory in Christ.

16 Therefore, let no one judge you because of what you eat or drink or about the observance of annual holy days, New Moon Festivals, or weekly worship days. 17 These are a shadow of the things to come, but the body that casts the shadow belongs to Christ.

Colossians 2

**18 Let no one who delights in false humility and the worship of angels tell you that you don't deserve a prize. Such a person, whose sinful mind fills him with arrogance, gives endless details of the visions he has seen. 19 He doesn't hold on to Christ, the head. Christ makes the whole body grow as God wants it to, through support and unity given by the joints and ligaments.**

**20 If you have died with Christ to the world's way of doing things, why do you let others tell you how to live? It's as though you were still under the world's influence. 21 People will tell you, "Don't handle this! Don't taste or touch that!" 22 All of these things deal with objects that are only used up anyway. 23 These things look like wisdom with their self-imposed worship, false humility, and harsh treatment of the body. But they have no value for holding back the constant desires of your corrupt nature.**

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Let's see what Colossians 2 is really saying simply by looking at the context: In verse 4 we see that he is wanting them not to be beguiled by enticing words.

In verse 6 Paul is telling them to walk in Messiah. In verse 8, "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the \*rudiments of the world, and not after Messiah."

So we see he is warning them that men will come with false teaching and Paul is telling them not to be deceived and not to follow after the traditions of men.

\*EARTH  
WIND  
FIRE

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# QUESTION: WHAT IS THE ALTERNATIVE TO TRADITIONS OF MEN?

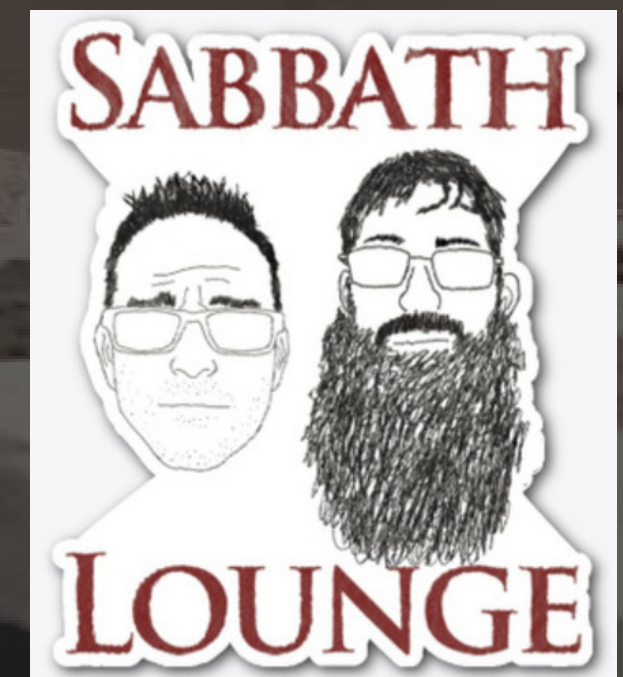
Answer: Yahweh's (see. Matthew 15:3) "You transgress Yahweh's commandments by your traditions." And then in Matthew 15:9, "But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men"





# COLOSSIANS 2:10

**Paul makes an important point that seems to get missed only five verses later. Messiah is "head over all principality and power." We'll return to this point in Part 2.**



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# PART 2

## Colossians 2

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In Colossians 2:11. We see that the  
circumcision of Messiah "puts off the body  
of sins of the flesh"





QUESTION:

WHAT ARE THE SINS THAT  
MESSIAH TAKES OFF US?



# ANSWER: THE BREAKING OF TORAH COMMANDMENTS.

Looking at Galatians 2:18 we see "for if I build again the things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor." So now that the law transgressing has been removed from us we should not return again "like a dog to the vomit." (2 Peter 2:22)





WITH THAT BACKGROUND, WE CAN HAVE A MORE CLEAR LOOK AT WHAT PAUL IS SAYING IN VERSES 14 THROUGH 17.

Verse 14 "Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross."



SO THIS WORD "ORDINANCES" THAT WAS AGAINST US IS WHAT WAS NAILED TO THE CROSS SO IT'S IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND WHAT THESE "ORDINANCES" ARE. THE WORD TRANSLATED ORDINANCES IS "DOGMA" AND IT IS TALKING ABOUT A PUBLIC DECREE, OR DECREES OF MEN NOW DOGMA ISN'T ALWAYS CONTRARY TO SCRIPTURE.

Consider Acts 16:4. This is where the apostles got together to declare or decree what the followers should be doing and was in line with Scripture. Those weren't decrees against believers.





Remember that it was the commandments of men that said, Jews and Gentiles could not come together, not the Torah. In fact, this is contrary to Torah (see Leviticus 19:34 and Deuteronomy 10:19).

It is the commandments of men "contrary to us" that were nailed to the cross and this is where Messiah takes back control of the principalities and powers Paul talks about in verse 10.

See verse 15 "having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it"



**Because the principalities and powers of men have  
been defeated, you can have the courage to walk  
out your faith.**





# JUDGEMENT

Many will use Colossians 2:16 which says:

"Let no man judge you in meat or drink or in respect of a holy day or of the new Moon, or of the Sabbath days." and then they'll say "see we aren't to judge a man for the Sabbaths he keeps."



So we can correctly see verse 16 by remembering what we talked about with principalities and powers and considering the following:

Colossae is in Turkey about 800 miles from Jerusalem. It wasn't a town full of law following Jews. It was full of Gentiles, ignorant of Elohim's laws.

Paul is talking to the believers in Colossae telling them not to be discouraged when the Gentiles are judging them or the pagans are judging them for keeping things of Yah instead of the ascetic practices of the culture around them.







**All meat comes from sacrifice: Hellenic dietary laws on meat consumption**

6th century BCE representation of an animal sacrifice Animal sacrifice is often thought to be one of the essential practices of ancient Hellenic religion. Frequently the practice is given a central...

Hellenic Faith / Jul 31, 2021

1. NOT EATING CERTAIN MEATS.
2. THEY ARE SETTING APART ELOHIM'S HOLY DAYS.
3. THEY ARE OBSERVING THE NEW MOONS AND
4. THEY ARE KEEPING THE SABBATH

Paul is saying "Let no [unbelieving] man judge you." He is not talking about being judged by brethren in Messiah.



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**PART 3**

**Colossians 2**

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# JUDGEMENT

Many will use Colossians 2:16 which says:

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He's talking about how it is up to the believers to make judgment on each other in these matters and that no wicked person may remain in the assembly but those outside the assembly we do not judge.



# How do we know this?

1st Corinthians 5: 12 -13

"for what have I to do to judge them also that are without Do not you judge them that are within? But them that are without Elohim judges therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person"





# NOW CONSIDER COLOSSIANS 2:16 THROUGH 17 AGAIN

"let no man therefore judge you in meat or in drink or in respect of a holy day or of the new moon or of the Sabbath **days** which are a shadow of things to come but the body **is** of Messiah"

OK so the word "days" and "is" as highlighted in the verse there are added by the translators and it shows you because in the King James it's in italics.

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# WHAT'S UP WITH THIS?

Verse 17. "Which are a shadow of things to come; But the body  
WHAT'S UP? is of Messiah."?

Verses 16 and 17 are all one sentence, a single idea. In order for  
it to make sense, look at it as a whole.

COLOSSIANS 2:16 THROUGH 17





# Lets Compare

KJV: "...which are a shadow of things to come; but the body **is** of Messiah."

NIV: "...these are a shadow of the things that **were** to come; **the reality, however, is found in** Messiah"

ESV: "...these are a shadow of the things to come, but the **substance belongs to** Messiah"

COLOSSIANS 2:16 THROUGH 17

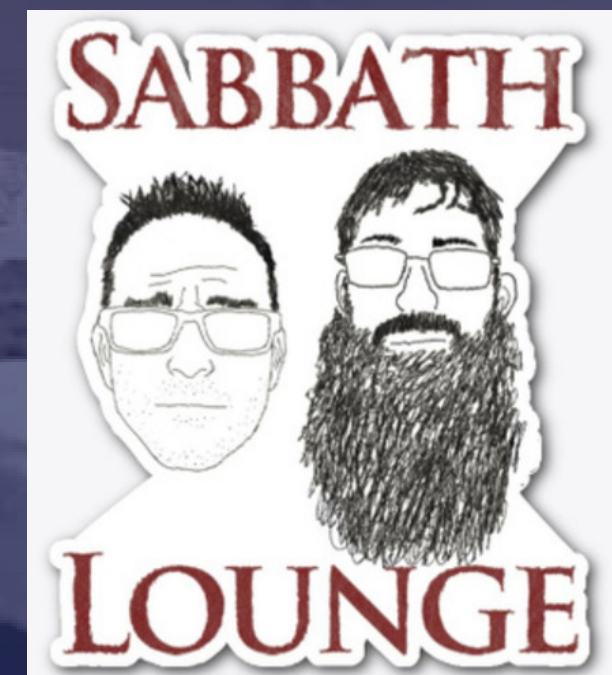
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So we see this translated different ways. If we look at the word "body" the Greek word is "soma" and it means "body" 144 times "bodily" one time and "slave" one time.

So where does the NIV get the "reality however is found in?"

COLOSSIANS 2:16 THROUGH 17





The NIV and other translations change the meaning of the Greek to show looking to the past versus looking to the future.

More importantly they change the meaning of the word "soma." Never is "soma" translated anything close to "the reality however is found in."

The NIV translates by trying to convey the idea that the Greeks would have had and is not a word for word translation.

COLOSSIANS 2:16 THROUGH 17



So if we leave "body" in the verse since that's what it means and take "is" out since it was added, looking at the verse in context we see it says "let no man therefore judge you... But the body of Messiah"

COLOSSIANS 2:16 THROUGH 17



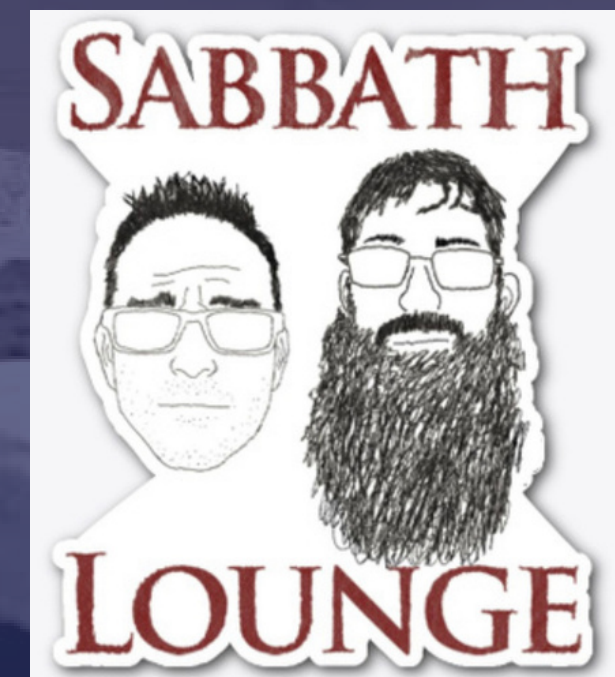


So what Paul is saying is that the pagans in Colossae have no power in judgment of the believers who are following Messiah and keeping these things. Only the body of Messiah, the believers, can make judgment on these things.



Now we see this understanding of these verses corroborated as we continue on to verse 20 where Paul confirms we are dead with Messiah "from the rudiments of the world." The rest is pretty self explanatory so context is key.

In verses 20 through 22 he's asking why they are subjecting themselves to these ordinances that he was talking about earlier, these dogmas "after the commandments and doctrines of men" and we know Yahweh's commandments are of a heavenly nature and not of men.





## COLOSSIANS 2 VERSE 20 - 23

"Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances, (Touch not; taste not; handle not; Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men? Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body (**asceticism**); not in any honor to the satisfying of the flesh."



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