



## The Blessings of the Home

by B. Hannigan

### PARENTS

#### Husbands

For some time I have felt the Lord dealing with me regarding my role as husband and father. As I have examined the Word of God on this matter I see there is a great measure yet to be entered into. What should we, as men of God, set as a standard for our behavior as husbands? Our target is clearly defined in the scripture; "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;" Eph. 5:25.

#### Headship

I am staggered by the sacrificial love of Christ for me, and for His church. I cannot fully comprehend the extent of that love, but I deeply appreciate what He gave and gave up for us. Yet this sacrificial love of Christ is not modeled through husbands in the typical home of today. The expectation placed on husbands in our Western culture is that they be sufficiently pleasant to their wife and children, and spend some time with their family: but most other aspects of the home cater to his whims, demands and schedule. The truth that God has made man "the head of the home" becomes translated as "king of the castle." I believe that God wants to remind us that a man's headship is a deeply spiritual charge. It is a sacrificial devotion that is impossible to achieve without God. Without an

anointing on a man in this area of his life, loving headship easily disintegrates, and a self-serving model emerges.

#### Serve One Another

The above paragraph, comparing the perfect pattern of Christ to our imperfect condition as husbands, does not in any way release a wife or the children from their charge and role in the home as it is outlined in the scriptures. Nor is it an excuse to criticize or compare. Let us pray for one another, husbands for wives, wives for husbands, parents for children and children for parents; for Christ is setting us free from our own evil ways. We are being "called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh (selfish motives) but **by love serve one** another." Gal. 5:13.

#### Who is King at Home?

God is, without question, establishing the Kingdom of God in the earth today. He has invited you and I to participate in bringing this to pass. He begins the work in you and I individually, setting up His throne in our hearts when we receive him as Lord. Do we realize, though, how influential the family model of the Kingdom is in the world? In this model, the husband, as head of the home, along with his wife, as his helpmate, submit their home to Christ, making him King. This submission begins when a man and his wife

make their marriage vows to each other and to God. It is renewed day to day as they grow up into Christ. When God adds children to the home, mother and father become evangelists, bringing up their children in the fear and admonition of the Lord. By example and teaching, aided by the Holy Spirit, Dad and Mom lead each child to the place where they are tender before the Lord, and are able to receive Jesus as their personal Lord and Saviour. Thus the church grows from within.

#### I am weak. He is strong

The responsibility of ordering our house in a godly manner does seem to be a task too immense. Considering honestly before the Lord our tendency to weakness and sin, is not parenting a path destined to be plagued by failure? We may already see the effects of our failings. Yet we have great hope, for we have been given the gift of the Holy Ghost, ever present, full of wisdom and truth, to be our help in setting up the Kingdom of God in our homes. Let us agree with the apostle Paul when he writes: "Yet, my brothers, I do not consider myself to have 'arrived', spiritually, nor do I consider myself already perfect. But I keep going on, grasping ever more firmly that purpose for which Christ Jesus grasped me. My brothers, I do not consider myself to have fully grasped it even now. But I do concentrate on this: I leave the past

behind and with hands outstretched to whatever lies ahead I go straight for the goal - my reward the honour of my high calling by God in Christ Jesus." Phil. 3:12-14 (Phillips translation).

#### The arrow

Shaping the lives of children can easily be likened to building a good arrow. Upon release they both should be able to fly straight toward the selected target. There are two tasks implied in this; firstly, shaping a very straight arrow and, secondly, pointing it toward the correct target.

**Shaping** a straight arrow requires loving attention, and whittling away stubborn spots. Since children will align themselves to their parents, we must continually search our own hearts, see if there be any wicked way in us, cleanse ourselves in the blood of Christ, and lead the way in righteous living.

**The target** is our calling. Our calling is to enter fully into Christ. Ephesians 4:13 says we are to come to the "unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;" This is the goal that we as parents must set for our home. Let us keep it continually before our own eyes and before our family. Let us realize that Bible reading, prayer life, church attendance and ministry is **not** the goal; they are steps toward the goal.

#### Being aware

Everyone agrees that raising children is a blend of sobering responsibility and great privilege. Parents find it difficult and perplexing to know what ingredients should be added to and withheld from their children to help them develop into responsible adults. Many Christians and non-Christians do take their parenting role very seriously, and try their best to provide a good home, and responsible guidance. Yet great difficulty faces the non-Christian in sorting through the myriad of approaches to parenting. Many ideas appear sensible. Some of these ideas are based on a learned understanding of how God has fashioned human nature and may recommend methods that are not contrary to scripture. Let us be fully aware, however, that in our day godless

powers are promoting damaging philosophies on how to raise children. These ideas encourage placing no restraint on children, and ignore that we all, from birth, have a sinful heritage.

#### Every wind of doctrine

Christian parents, we must avoid (flee) the teachings of the world, (walk not in the counsel of the ungodly). The Christian faith has no doctrine but the anointed scripture. The Church is not a collection of opinions of Christians, but a reflection of the mind and will of God. *The blessing of God rests upon those who "delight (find pleasure, happiness, joy) in the law of the Lord" and "meditate therein day and night."* Let us fully embrace what the Spirit is saying to the church in the 4th chapter of Ephesians about where we place our confidence. Our Lord knows that we, the church, need protection from the philosophies of men. He gave gifts to men when he ascended on high, gifts that would bring about maturity (perfection), and not leave us "tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, and the cunning craftiness whereby they lie in wait to deceive." These protection gifts and perfection gifts are the five-fold apostolic ministries, that are a foundation (Eph. 2:19-20) on which the church grows into a holy habitation for the Lord.

#### Dedication

Christians should have **no doubt** about where their source of guidance is for raising their children. When parents meet before God and the Church to dedicate their children to the Lord, they then enter into a partnership with the Lord. Together with Him they will raise the child in a godly manner, based on the scriptures and prayer. God is more anxious than we realize to give us **specific** wisdom that will meet the **specific** needs of each child that is added to a home. The scriptures will provide **general** guidance on how to raise a child. Parents can then seek God in prayer when they need **specific** direction. Let us never hesitate to cry out to God for His help in shepherding the children He has put under our care. The specific direction will come. Our God, who cannot lie, whose Word is unailing, says., "If any of you lack wisdom,

let him ask of God, that giveth to all *men* liberally, and upbraideth (criticizes) not; and it shall be given him." and "The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James 5:16.

When a child is dedicated to the Lord, a charge is given to the local Church to support the parents and the child. When we see a family having struggles it is a duty and privilege to PRAY. Criticism rarely helps families. Encouragement does help. If the need is urgent, FAST AND PRAY. The *accuser of the brethren*, Satan (Rev. 12:10) tempts us to join his "day and night" accusing of one another. Look to Jesus. He is our pattern. When Jesus saw Peter being threatened by Satan, He **prayed**, (turn to Luke 22:31-32).

Let us be very careful if we feel to speak to a family when we see them in trial. Let it be preceded by prayer. Give serious consideration to speaking to the elders for their guidance. Ask them if they feel you bear a right spirit. We must not trust our carnal nature. Our carnal nature **readily** makes a quick assessment of a brother's flaw, feels haughty indignation for the ignorance or un-Christian behavior that has been displayed, and feels an urgent need to bring correction now. This causes harm.

Resident in each of us is God's nature, the very person of Christ. In our personal walk with the Lord, has he not used much longsuffering and patience with us? His example is a pattern, the only pattern, for our dealing with each other: longsuffering means making allowance for each other. If we are going to speak the truth, it must be done in love. Let Him speak through us. He is incapable of irritability and impatience. The evidence of His influence in us is active love. Eph. 4:2-3 "With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in **love**; Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." Also read Ephesians 4:15-16 that talks about this Body of Christ making increase by the edifying of itself in love. Rather "seek that ye may excel to the edifying (strengthening) of the church" I Corinth 14:12.

Let us not withdraw from a family

when we see them in distress. It is a normal, but harmful, response to cut off fellowship from someone when we cannot understand what they are going through, or when we do not feel we have any answers for them. Many times the ministry of hospitality brings the very comfort of the Holy Spirit needed to sustain someone in trial.

### **We need God's blessing on our Homes**

How can we, as parents, enjoy the favor and approval of God in our marriages and our families? We all desire to have the best marriages and to raise happy, balanced, godly children. We know God is willing and able to pour out a blessing upon us in this important area of our lives. He says so, speaking directly to parents through the prophet Isaiah, chapter 44:3 "For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring." Let us, then, turn our minds to the scripture to examine some basic spiritual principles that release God's blessings to our family.

### **First Blessing Principle - Keep God First**

Mark 12:30 "And thou shall love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment." Now this scripture is so familiar to some, that it is tempting to read on with little thought. Yet the principal contained here is so foundational to the Christian walk, that by it's very nature demands of us that we continually re-measure ourselves against it. As a believer, we embrace this scripture. Then with the help of His Son Jesus, and the strength of the Holy Spirit, we will strive to adopt as absolute the following:

- I love God first before anything and everything

-I will accept His love for me through Christ

-I will love what He loves, and hate what he hates

-I will seek to fashion my life according to His word. (the Church doctrine is not a collection of the opinions of Christians, but a reflection of the mind and will of God.)

-I will believe what He says, even when my understanding is weak.

-I will do everything that He wants me to do

-I will deny myself, so that I do not put my will or my opinions ahead of His. Let us even now, before reading any further, take a few moments to bow before God and ask Him to help us put Him first, and keep Him first.

Jesus, in His parable of the sower and the seed, portrays clearly what restricts or releases God's blessings in the lives of men. (Mark 4:1-20) The 3 basic ingredients of this parable are the soil, the seed and the sower. The sower is the Holy Spirit; the seed, the Living Word; and the soil, the hearts of men. Notice the conditions of the hearts of men that bear no fruit. The one man accepted the word, but soon preferred his worldly ways, and the word was removed. Another received the word but chose to blend into his happy new life the old stones of self (preferring his own opinions and his own goals over the will of God). When the normal trials of life came that cause a believer to become more deeply rooted in Christ, he instead became disillusioned, and his experience dried up. Yet another, began to grow in the Lord in good soil. He liked the strait road, but not the narrowing, and did not lay aside the weights and besetting sins as they arose. So weeds of sin grew large, shading the glory of his first love. No longer enjoying sweet fellowship with the Lord, the trivial trinkets of worldly life drew him away.

In each case, whether by willful deed or carelessness, the individual allowed a blended Christian life, mixing the pleasures of world and sin and thereby restricting the ability of God to fully bless. In contrast, those who bore fruit invited the husbandman (gardener) to condition the soil of their hearts with continual attention so that nothing would impede the growth of that life that was sown within. They allowed Christ to come to maturity in their lives.

The door of our access to the full measure of God's blessing swings on the hinge of the repentant, humble heart; who strives to keep every affection a

distant second to his first love for God. It is said so well in another scripture; "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his **delight** is in the law of the Lord, and in His law doth he meditate day and night.

And he shall be like a tree, planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season;

his leaf also shall not wither, and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. The ungodly are not so, but are like the chaff

which the wind driveth away. The ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the

righteous, For the Lord knoweth the way of the

righteous,

but the way of the ungodly shall perish."

(Psalm 1).

### **Second Blessing Principle - Priesthood**

Parents are the priesthood of the home. A priest is a man appointed to stand between God and man. The husband takes on the duty of priest to his family. Husband and wife together form the 'covering' for their children. God's ability to bless the home is largely governed by the quality of the covering. Though this priesthood title may seem entirely a somber duty, it is also a magnificent privilege of love. The more that we fathers hide our life in Christ, and yield ourselves to the transforming anointing that flows in the "secret place of the Most High", the more we will be drawn to intercede for those who have been put under our care. Question: should we be pressing into this place of intercession for our spouse, for our children? Ask yourself, "Is there a need for a deeper consecration in my life? Would it help my spouse if I spent time daily in prayer on his/her behalf? Do my children need a covering of prayer at this time in their lives?" If the answer is **YES**, then let us ask God for strength to press into this calling. Let us start today.

An examination of the history of all prior moves of the Spirit of God reveals a pattern. At the time the Holy Spirit is poured out, there is great excitement and enthusiasm. Those who earnestly sought God, and hungered for a deeper walk, are met by Him in a rich and mighty way. Yet, invariably as the years passed there followed a cooling off. What was once thrilling and new experience with God becomes ordinary. After a generation or so, a sense of being satisfied and content with the new status quo prevails. Hunger for the word of God diminishes, people spend minimal time in prayer, and the things of food, clothing, shelter and entertainment become quite important. Apostasy means abandonment of previous loyalty. This is the condition that describes the Laodiceans - yes, they are still doubtful of the world, but their lifestyle reflects only a moderate enthusiasm about their faith. The focus of the believer shifts from a deep personal relationship with Jesus Christ to a guardianship of creed, order, and doctrine. Do these prior sentences make you uncomfortable? They bother me. I am reluctant to face the possibility that I have become complacent. Yet I cannot ignore the symptoms of apostasy. It would be irresponsible to hide our heads in the sand.

God offers a remedy for our condition, a remedy that invites our involvement as priests, as intercessors. Joel 2:17 "Let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O Lord, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God?" It is our urgent privilege as parents to make this kind of genuine intercession on behalf of our children and our spouses. And how will God answer? A few verses later in the book of Joel He promises "And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions." Joel 2:28 There are many additional scriptures that exhibit God's imploring us to a deeper

walk, revealing His kind of longsuffering love, in spite of our backslidden condition. Let us renew our devotion to our first love, let us enter into that personal fellowship with our Saviour, pleading for our own condition, and for those God has given to us.

### **Third Blessing Principle - Continue in Apostles' Doctrine - family worship**

Acts 2:41-42 then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. **And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine** and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

When the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the early Church, the apostles received great understanding of the purpose of God, the purpose of the Church, the operation of the Holy Spirit in the individual and in the gatherings. When the apostles preached these revelations, the believers heard what the Spirit was saying to the Church, and made the necessary changes to begin to **walk** in the revelation. This has been the experience in every outpouring of the Spirit since that day. Yes, there were those who heard the revelation and found it too inconvenient, so chose not to give up their old beliefs or to sacrifice some present comfort. But many endeavoured, with God's help, to enter in fully to the apostles' doctrine.

We, too, have been privileged to receive revelation. One of the teachings introduced some 40 years ago greatly impacted the home. God reminded us that it was the duty of the parents to instruct the children in the ways of God. A family altar was established where the parents and children meet to worship the Lord, and learn of His ways. (Family altar is also called 'family worship' and 'devotions'.) Prior to this children were taught by Sunday School teachers. I encourage you to search the scriptures, to affirm that God commits to **parents** (not Sunday school teachers or Children's Church) the primary duty of bringing up a child in the way that they should go. The local congregation plays a more minor role in teaching the children, compared with the role of the parents. Let us be

encouraged to be faithful in this area. Keeping the family altar is one of the ways we continue steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine. If family worship has slipped in your home, start it up again. Keep at it, even if you miss some times.

The following writing in Psalm 78, verses 1 to 8 reveals that fathers are commanded to teach their children the way of the Lord: "Give ear, O my people, to my law: incline your ears to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old: Which we have heard and known, **and our fathers have told us.** We will not hide them from their children, **shewing to the generation to come** the praises of the Lord, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done. For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, **which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children: that the generation to come might know them even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children: that they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments: And might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation: a generation that set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not steadfast with God."**

Family worship should not be a boring, repetitive exercise. Nor should it be reduced in time to a 'word of prayer'. Look to the Lord, for he will help parents to make it interesting and relevant to the whole family. Both mother and father play key roles, and their individual ministries can shine in this important outreach.

What is the purpose of family worship? What does God want to accomplish in this time that is set aside?

1. Evangelism - Lead your children to Christ.
2. Teach the children the revelation. Memorize scripture.
3. Learn to worship and praise God together, *out loud*. Expect the anointing.
4. Pray together, bring prayer requests for teachers, friends co-work-

ers, the church, one another; begin to intercede as a family.

5. Edification - Give every member of the family opportunity to minister to each other. Testify of what God has done.

When I read in Daniel 7 about the end times, and the efforts of the enemy to "wear out the saints of the most High", I believe it is now time to devote

more of our energies to encouraging one another. Let us "think of one another, and how we can encourage each other to love and do good deeds," Hebrews 10:24 We should be like Aaron and Hur were to Moses, standing beside each other, and holding up one another's hands until the victory is won<sup>1</sup>. Let us therefore, fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest,

any of you should come short of it<sup>2</sup>, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil<sup>3</sup>, Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord<sup>4</sup>. Exodus 17:12  
<sup>2</sup>Hebrews 4:1 <sup>3</sup>Ephesians 5:16 <sup>4</sup>1 Corinthians 15:58.

# Comments On Paul's Letter To The Colossians Chap. 2

**Colossians 2:1 For I would that ye knew what great conflict I have for you, and for them at Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh;**

Paul was fighting a great conflict in the realm of the Spirit concerning the Colossian and Laodicean churches. His concern was for all the members of the body of Christ that he had never met. He was very concerned for them because of the influence of false teachers. A false teacher can always seem to pick out someone who is weak in the faith and concentrate on them. Because Paul had never taught them personally, and established them on the foundation, he was very anxious. He speaks as if he had interceded much on their behalf.

**Colossians 2:2 That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and know ledge.**

The Holy Spirit was called the comforter by Jesus in John 14:16 "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seem him not, neither knoweth Him".

It is the Holy Spirit that knits people's hearts together. It is by the moving

of the Holy Spirit that love flows. Paul prayed that they might know the full riches of a complete understanding of the mystery of God. This mystery is God the Father, and Jesus Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. This mystery can only be understood by the revelation of the Spirit of God.

**Colossians 2:4 And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words.**

Paul's letter to them was for the purpose of keeping them from being led astray by the fine sounding arguments of men.

**Colossians 2:5 For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.**

Paul wasn't physically present with them, but his heart was with them, because of the message Epaphras had brought him concerning this church. He rejoiced in the order that existed in their church, and their steadfastness in their faith in Christ.

**Colossians 2:6 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and established in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.**

Just as the Holy Spirit had drawn them to accept Christ, they were instructed to walk in His ways. Trying to

use Him as an example, without knowing Him personally as Saviour, avails nothing. As one who has become His child we are responsible to walk as led by the Holy Spirit. We must grow out of Him and receive our Spiritual nourishment from Him, as a branch grows and receives nourishment from the vine. They had been planted and established in their walk, so now they were to walk as they had been taught. Always let thankfulness abound.

**Colossians 2:8 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 Christ.**

The world is full of the traditions of men and we are instructed to be very careful in what we accept. As Paul says, our faith could be spoiled through philosophy and the traditions of men. These things sound good but can be very deceiving. I would like to warn students of higher education to weigh things well in the light of the Scriptures, and be careful to follow Christ's teaching, and not the high sounding nonsense of men.

**Colossians 2:9,10 For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:**

We don't need the philosophy of men, because in Christ dwells the completeness of the wisdom of God, and

we are complete in Christ. God walked the earth in bodily form in Christ and Christ now walks the earth in bodily form in His church. He is the Head of all principality and power. Paul's prayer for these people was that they might be filled with the knowledge of His will, in all wisdom and spiritual understanding.

**Colossians 2:11 In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:**

Circumcision is the cutting away of the flesh. Under the new covenant we are set free from our evil and fleshly desires by the circumcision of Christ. It is the operation of the Spirit of God within us. Our flesh is cut away in Him. The sacrifices and circumcision, as practised under the old covenant, were fulfilled in Christ. Christ died to annul the system of Jewish laws. Ephesians 2:15 "Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace." (The Jew and the Gentile.)

**Colossians 2:12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.**

Jesus was buried and rose again. When we are baptized we share in His death by being buried with Him, and we also share in the miracle of rising again to new life. This is possible because we have faith in the power of God which raised Christ from the dead and which enables us to walk in a new life.

**Colossians 2:13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;**

We were dead and under the bondage of sin. Our flesh was our master. We have been made alive with Him, and all our trespasses have been forgiven. What marvellous grace.

**Colossians 2:14.15 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; And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.**

Christ has utterly wiped out all the evidence of broken laws that were against us. It was all nailed to His cross. He has spoiled the powers that were against us. He triumphed over them and showed them up as powerless.

**Colossians 2:16. 17 Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an 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 Christ.**

Under the law, Israel had all kinds of regulations concerning what they ate, what they drank, holy days that they observed, and new moons and sabbaths. The Christians were instructed not to be brought into bondage by people's judgment concerning these things. Jesus cancelled the written code with its regulations. It was nailed to the cross with Him. These things had divided the Jew and the Gentile so that there was no fellowship between them. The cross provided a way for unity. Ephesians 2:14 "For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father." Paul's word to the Romans was, Romans 14:17 "For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost." These were only temporary rules and shadows of the real thing. They ended when

Christ came.

**Colossians 2:18 Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind.**

Don't let anyone take away your reward in Christ by artful tactics in persuading you to fall down and worship angels. The person who promotes these things is inflated by an unspiritual imagination and is pushing his way into matters he knows nothing about.

**Colossians 2:19 And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God.**

They are not holding on to the Head from which flows, through every joint, the nourishment needed, to knit the body together. Holding on to Him and receiving from the rest of the body is the only way that we can grow, increase, and get strength from God.

**Colossians 2:20.21.22. 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?**

If we have died with Christ and risen with Him, why should we be subject to human injunctions and teachings, such as touch not, taste not, handle not. These are the commandments of men. The Jews were trying to make the Christians subject to many of their man made traditions. Christ had, through His death, delivered them from all these traditions.

**Colossians 2:23 Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh.**

These regulations may look wise with their self-imposed efforts at worship. They may be humiliating and hard on the body but they do nothing in restraining sensual indulgence.