



**On Things  
ABOVE**

The Book of Colossians



**On Things  
ABOVE**

**Living In Your New Identity**

**Colossians 2:11-23**

**Colossians 2:11-23** In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, <sup>12</sup> having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. <sup>13</sup> And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, <sup>14</sup> by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup> He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

**Colossians 2:11-23** <sup>16</sup> Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. <sup>17</sup> These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. <sup>18</sup> Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, <sup>19</sup> and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.

**Colossians 2:11-23** <sup>20</sup> If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations— <sup>21</sup> “Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch” <sup>22</sup> (referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to human precepts and teachings? <sup>23</sup> These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh

# “In Christ”

You were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ

You having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him

You were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, <sup>14</sup> by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands

**Colossians 2:16-19** <sup>16</sup> **Therefore let no one pass judgment on you** in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. <sup>17</sup> These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.

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# Elemental Spirits of this world

**Idolatry** (Raising anything above Jesus)

**Paganism** (Worshiping the earth)

**Gnosticism** (Special secret knowledge about God)

**Pluralism** (All paths to God)

**Legalism** (*Salvation, righteousness, justification and sanctification come through our human effort*)

**Colossians 2:23** These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh

**Colossians 2:19** .... Not... holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.

# Invitation

## **Moving yourself toward Jesus**

Ask the Holy Spirit to show you anything that you are trusting in that has the appearance of wisdom but is hindering you from living in your new identity in Christ.

## **Moving others toward Jesus**

When you come across a person who you feel little love for, ask Jesus to show how He sees this person and allow Jesus to love them through you.