

Colossians 2:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:

Analysis

Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days. Based on Christ's victory ("therefore," oun, οὖν), Paul draws practical implications. "Let no man judge you" (μὴ oun tis hymas krinetō, μὴ οὖν τις ὑμᾶς κρινέτω) prohibits accepting external religious condemnation regarding ceremonial matters: dietary laws ("meat, or in drink"), sacred calendar ("holyday, or of the new moon"), and Sabbath observance.

These were distinctively Jewish regulations prescribed by Mosaic Law. False teachers apparently insisted Gentile Christians adopt Jewish ceremonial practices for spiritual maturity. Paul liberates believers from such requirements—not promoting libertinism but recognizing Christ fulfilled these shadows, making their literal observance unnecessary. Christians enjoy freedom from ceremonial law's binding authority, though may voluntarily observe such practices for other reasons (Romans 14).

Historical Context

Seventh-day Sabbath, dietary restrictions, and festival calendar marked Jewish covenant identity, separating Jews from Gentiles. The Jerusalem Council (Acts 15) decided Gentile Christians didn't need these requirements, yet Judaizing pressure persisted. Paul repeatedly fought this battle (Galatians, Romans), defending gospel freedom against legalistic additions. The Colossian heresy added Jewish

ceremonialism to Greek philosophy and mysticism, creating comprehensive system replacing simple faith in Christ.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What religious rules or days do you observe thinking they're required for God's acceptance or spiritual growth?
2. How do you balance Christian freedom with voluntary practices that benefit spiritual life without being mandatory?
3. Where might you judge other Christians for not observing practices you consider important but Scripture makes optional?

Interlinear Text

Μὴ	οὖν	τις	ὑμᾶς	κρινέτω	ἐν	βρώσει	ἢ	ἐν	πόσει
no	therefore	man	you	Let	in	meat	or	in	drink
G3361	G3767	G5100	G5209	G2919	G1722	G1035	G2228	G1722	G4213

ἢ	ἐν	μέρει	ἐορτῆς	ἢ	νουμηνίας	ἢ	σαββάτων·
or	in	respect	of an holyday	or	of the new moon	or	of the sabbath
G2228	G1722	G3313	G1859	G2228	G3561	G2228	G4521

Additional Cross-References

Romans 14:10 (Judgment): But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

Galatians 4:10 (Parallel theme): Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years.

Hebrews 13:9 (Parallel theme): Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein.

Ezekiel 45:17 (Parallel theme): And it shall be the prince's part to give burnt offerings, and meat offerings, and drink offerings, in the feasts, and in the new moons, and in the sabbaths, in all solemnities of the house of Israel: he shall prepare the sin offering, and the meat offering, and the burnt offering, and the peace offerings, to make reconciliation for the house of Israel.

Nehemiah 10:33 (Holy): For the shewbread, and for the continual meat offering, and for the continual burnt offering, of the sabbaths, of the new moons, for the set feasts, and for the holy things, and for the sin offerings to make an atonement for Israel, and for all the work of the house of our God.

1 Chronicles 23:31 (Parallel theme): And to offer all burnt sacrifices unto the LORD in the sabbaths, in the new moons, and on the set feasts, by number, according to the order commanded unto them, continually before the LORD:

Matthew 15:11 (Parallel theme): Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man.

Hebrews 9:10 (Parallel theme): Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation.

James 4:11 (Judgment): Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge.

Mark 7:19 (Parallel theme): Because it entereth not into his heart, but into the belly, and goeth out into the draught, purging all meats?