

COLOSSIANS  
Contrasting Light and Darkness

I. **False human teachings** (vs. 8, 18-23)

“take you captive” **Kidnapped** (vs. 8)

There were 3 philosophies that threatened these young Christians:

- **Mysticism** (vs. 18)
- **Asceticism** (vs. 20-23)
- **Legalism** (vs. 16)

**True teachings of Christ** (vs. 8-10)

When I have Christ, I have **completeness**

II. **External circumcision** (vs. 11-13)

Circumcision symbolized: **An External sign of an Internal commitment**

**Internal circumcision** (vs. 11-13)

Romans 8:28, 29a (NIV) “A man is not a Jew if he is only one outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. No, a man is a Jew if he is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code...”

Baptism symbolizes: **New Life in Christ**

III. **Legal code condemned us** (vs. 14)

The purpose of the Law: **Demonstrate the expectations**

Gal. 3:24 (NIV) “So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith.”

**Forgiveness of sin** (vs. 14)

Romans 8:1, 2 (NIV) “Therefore, there is now NO condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.”

IV. **Evil authorities over us** (v. 15)

Ephesians 6:12 (NIV) “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”

**Christ’s triumph over them** (vs. 15)

Ephesians 4:8-10 (NIV) “This is why it says, ‘When He ascended on high, He led captives in His train and gave gifts to men.’ (What does ‘He ascended’ mean except that He also descended to the lower, earthly regions? He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.)”

VI. **Shadows** (vs. 16, 17) **Simply Reflect reality**

What is a “New Moon celebration”?

Hebrews 10:1 (NIV) “The law is only a shadow of the good things are coming – not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship.”

**Reality** (vs. 16, 17)

Hebrews 7:18, 19, 22, 25 (NIV) *“The former regulations set aside because it is weak and useless (for the law made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God... because of this oath, Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant... Therefore, He is able to save completely those who come to God through Him...”*