

CONTENDING FOR THE PRIZE

**Colossians 2:13-23**

And to you – dead as you once were in your transgressions and in the uncircumcision of your natural state – He has nevertheless given Life with Himself, having forgiven us all our transgressions. The bond, with its requirements, which was in force against us and was hostile to us, He cancelled, and cleared it out of the way, nailing it to His Cross. And the hostile princes and rulers He shook off from Himself, and boldly displayed them as His conquests, when by the Cross He triumphed over them.

Therefore, suffer no one to sit in judgement on you as to eating or drinking or with regard to a festival, a new moon or a sabbath. These were a shadow of things that were soon to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. Let no one defraud you of your prize, priding himself on his humility and on his worship of the angels, and taking his stand on the visions he has seen, and idly puffed up with his unspiritual thoughts. Such a one does not keep his hold upon Christ, the Head, from whom the Body, in all its parts nourished and strengthened by its points of contact and its connections, grows with a divine growth.

If you have died with Christ and have escaped from the world's rudimentary notions, why, as though your life still belonged to the world, do you submit to such precepts as "Do not handle this;" "Do not taste that;" "Do not touch that other thing" – referring to things which are all intended to be used up and perish – in obedience to mere human injunctions and teachings? These rulers have indeed an appearance of wisdom where self-imposed worship exists, and an affectation of humility and an ascetic severity. But not one of them is of any value in combating the indulgence of our lower natures.

**Colossians 2:13-23 Weymouth**

18 Let no one defraud you by acting as an umpire *and* declaring you unworthy *and* disqualifying you for the prize, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, taking his stand on visions [he claims] he has seen, vainly puffed up by his sensuous notions *and* inflated by his unspiritual thoughts *and* fleshly conceit, 19 And not holding fast to the Head, from Whom the entire body, supplied and knit together by means of its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God. **Colossians 2:18-19 AMPC**

- All these things were 'beyond threats' ...they were taking place in the church in Paul's day. There were those who were falling for it and being robbed of their peace and joy in Jesus.

Commentary on **Colossians 2:18**:  
Stop letting anyone, in gratuitous humility and worship of angels, defraud you as an umpire.  
**Wms**

You must not allow anyone to cheat you by insisting on a false humility which addresses its worship to angels. **Knox**

You are not to be disqualified by the decision of people who go in for self-mortification and angel-worship. **NEB**

Let no one defraud you of salvation's victory prize...**Ber**

Let no man succeed in his wish to defraud you of your prize, persuading you to self-humiliation, and worship of the angels. **Con**

Nor let any man cheat you of your joy in Christ by persuading you to make yourself 'humble' and fall down and worship angels. **Phi**

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23I do all things for the sake of the gospel, so that I may become a fellow partaker of it.

24Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but *only* one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. **I Corinthians 9:23-24**

- We are to run so as to win...it matters how you run!

7But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, 9and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from *the* Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which *comes* from God on the basis of faith, 10that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; 11in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

12Not that I have already obtained *it* or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. 13Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of *it* yet; but one thing *I do*: forgetting what *lies* behind and reaching forward to what *lies* ahead, 14I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. **Philippians 3:7-14 NASB**

- What was Paul in pursuit of??

20For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; 21who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself. **Philippians 3:20-21 NASB**

Watch yourselves, that you do not lose what we have accomplished, but that you may receive a full reward. **2 John v 8**

- The enemy wants us to lose the joy of our reward of life in Jesus by adding things that God does not require or by making our lifestyle not 'appear' to be enough.
- Jesus and our life in Him is the prize...never settle for less and realize that the fullness of life in Him is more than the enemy can offer.

But without faith it is impossible to please *and* be satisfactory to Him. For whoever would come near to God must [necessarily] believe that God exists and that He is the rewarder of those who earnestly *and* diligently seek Him [out]. **Hebrews 11:6**

- He is the ultimate rewarder, and He gives the ultimate reward.