



**SERIES: August / September Series “HE IS ENOUGH”**

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**Friday, 09/03/2021**

**Scripture: Colossians 2:18-19**

**TITLE: Truth or Opinion?**

Let’s begin with a quiz. There is no grade, so you don’t need to panic or shut off the program. But I thought this would be a fun interaction I did with my congregation a few years ago.

Tell me if the following statement is objective or subjective. That’s it. Is my statement objective or subjective?

1. Bread pudding is the best dessert. Is that statement objective or subjective? It’s subjective. The truthfulness of the statement lies in the subject, not the object.
2. Cats are better than dogs. Is that objective or subjective? I’d say it’s objective, but then I’d be wrong. It’s the subject. It’s an opinion and fact.
3. Jesus is God. What about that one? Is that objective or subjective? It’s an objective statement. The truthfulness lies in the object, not the subject making it. It’s not opinion.

Okay, how’d you do? Today the world is driven and shaped by subjective truth or opinion. Truth is driven by feelings and not by reality. This problem isn’t unique to us. Paul was facing it 2,000 years ago.

Here’s what Paul said about it in Colossians 2:18-19 (NLT).

“Don’t let anyone condemn you by insisting on pious self-denial or the worship of angels<sup>1</sup> saying they have had visions about these things. Their sinful minds have made them proud,<sup>2</sup> and they are not connected to Christ, the head of the body. For he holds the whole body together with its joints and ligaments, and it grows as God nourishes it.”

What does this have to do with truth? Paul was fighting false teachers. First, they were legalists. That’s why they had this pious self-denial. Your version may say “delighting in self-abasement.” They were bragging about their legalism. So much for humility.

But they weren’t just legalists. They were mystics. They were believers in the experiential over reality. They were praying to angels. They were encouraging the Colossians to do this. We are to pray to no one else but God. Jesus told Satan in Matthew 4:10, “**You must worship the LORD your God and serve only him.**” There is only one mediator between man and God. That is Jesus Christ according to 1 Timothy 2:5.

These false teachers were not connected to Christ. So their visions and their teaching were void of truth. It was evil. It was damning. We are prone to move from truth to opinions. We tend to

drift towards feelings over fact. We move from Christ to experience. Instead, we should pursue Christ. We should follow Christ. We should cling to Christ. He is the truth. He provides life and freedom.

So this is my challenge for you today: What has taken the place of Christ and His Word? Is it a pastor? Is it an author? Is it a music group? Is it a charismatic speaker? How are you putting your experiences over the truth of Christ?

We are all subject to it. So how has it happened in your life? Put that experience, that person, or that thing through the grid of Scripture. Then put Christ and His truth where it belongs: front and center. When you do, you know it, friend, you will win the day.