

- a. believe the truth of vs. 9
- b. apply the truth of verse 9 to yourself in vs 10
- c. observe what Christ has done for us personally in vss 11-15
 - (1) He has cut away the body of sins (therefore we need nothing but Him for completeness before God) -vs. 11
 - (2) He has given us new life patterned after the power of His glorious life molded by the force of the resurrection from the dead. (Can one be any more alive than alive?) vs. 12
 - (3) He has forgiven all trespasses. (we stand healthy and fully forgiven) vs. 13
 - (4) He has set aside (at the cross) the legal writings that condemned us. This does not mean he has denied the law of God..He has completely fulfilled it at the cross so that nothing within ourselves or without ourselves is condemnatory. vs. 14
 - (5) He has demonstrated before the spiritual powers of the universe our freedom...in so doing He has made them His prisoner. (nothing can be gained by our looking to these sources for help or strength.) vs. 15
- d. But men will try to make us their prisoners...even "good" men, I suppose. None of them can do for us in any sense what the Lord Jesus has already done therefore we are foolish if we become the prisoners of any many. (It is, incidentally, another good reason for avoiding sectarianism as much as possible. We easily become spiritual prisoners of persons who never intended that as well as those who really worked to make us their slaves.)
- e. Allow no one but the Head of the Body to make the regulations for the life of the body. vss. 16-17

It is assumed that these verses discuss things not legislated in Scripture after the pattern of Romans 14 and 15.

4. The Third Test: 2:18-23

- a. The Warning: Let no one cheat you of the reward that is yours in following Christ but bringing you into other areas that deny you the peace and security that He gives. Be careful that no one make such spiritual signs as even offering the fellowship of angels or heavenly beings in this regard. vss. 18-19

Of such people we note: They do not have the knowledge themselves they are trying to give you (18) and they are not in order of yieldedness to Christ (19), and consequently are not being strengthened and encouraged by the Lord...no matter what the appearance might be.