

# REBUTTAL -- Legalism the Scourge of Christianity

Taiwo Olokun

To: *TA Ministries-Diakrisis*. In your article “Legalism the Scourge of Christianity”, you say: “The Word of God does not tell us that ... competitive sport, etc ... is inherently evil.”

Contrary to your Lies, 2Timothy 2:22 says “**Flee also Youthful Lusts**, but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart”. Ephesians 5:15-16, “See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, **Redeeming The Time**, because the days are evil”. See Colossians 3:1-3, Deuteronomy 6:6-9. Concerning dating and many other things in which **you think** God hasn’t spoken to us about, you say: “There is no problem with having a personal standard in any of these areas, but to expect everyone else around us to accept that same standard when it is not based on scripture, is plainly legalistic!”.

**So if the standard is by Scripture, then you and majority of Evangelical Leaders will bow to it and accept it? Right?! Whether you see it or not, your article “Legalism the Scourge of Christianity” argues for so-called “Christian Liberties” regarding so-called “gray areas”. Therefore you say:**

What is the interpreting authority in such issues as: celebrating Christmas/holy days; mixed bathing at beaches; Christian ‘dating’; going to the movies; watching TV; Christians in politics; ... competitions and playing/watching sports; having ‘shares’ in the stock market; wearing make-up ... Christian vs Public schooling...etc? There are mature Christians of varying affiliations who have wide and differing views on these issues and arguably very few are based on sound hermeneutics ...

You say: “... **mature Christians** ... have wide and differing views on these issues and arguably very few are based on sound hermeneutics ...”.

Shouldn’t **mature Christians** have the same mind on these issues? You call them “**mature Christians**” while accusing them of faulty hermeneutics/interpretations. On what basis do you call them “**mature Christians**” while accusing them of faulty interpretations? as if **Teaching** isn’t the Foundation and Life for Christianity.

The New Testament’s emphasis is that: Christians should flee from the idolatries of the land and idolatrous celebrations **even if the Christian has power over that idol (1Corinthians ch.8, ch.10)**. Therefore you rightfully confessed that: “... the best and most faithful scriptural argument concerning alcohol is the ‘**stumbling-block**’ issue. ...” SO WHY ARE YOU NOT APPLYING THAT SAME THINKING TO ALL THE OTHER STUMBLING BLOCKS (idols of the land and the idolatrous celebrations? e.g., Christmas).

You say: “What is the interpreting authority in such issues as: celebrating Christmas/ holy days”. Here, you ignorantly equate Christmas as part of what Scripture calls “holy days”, **Jewish Holy Days, The Feasts of YAH (e.g., Yom Kippur)**. When the New Testament says **we shouldn’t judge** each other regarding “holy days”, it’s speaking of the Jewish Holy Days, not Christmas which was never commanded by the true-God. Holy days which the New Testament says are no more a requirement, were commanded by the true-God (the God of the Jewish Scripture: Old and New Testament). Christmas falls under “stumbling blocks”, idols of the land, idolatrous celebrations, 1Corinthians ch.8, ch.10, **not** Colossians 2:16-17

You say:

Many areas that are not explicitly addressed in scripture may come under what some call ‘conscience decisions’. These can be scripturally addressed in the following fashion: **Will it be spiritually profitable?: ... (1Cor.10:23) ... Will it help others?: Will it be a ‘stumblingblock’?: ‘... Take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak’ (1Cor. 8:9) ...**

You say: “Other examples of Legalism might include: the demand that women wear headcoverings ...”. Therefore 1Corinthians 11 is Legalistic.

*TA Ministries-Diakrisis*, concerning your title “Legalism the Scourge of Christianity”, i’m sure you have read the following Scripture before: “... whom the LORD loves He chastens, and Scourges every son whom He receives.” (Hebrews 12:5-11)

I also read the paragraph in which you argued that: “The ‘liberty’ we have is not a license to do as we please but a submission to the Lord’s will as found in His Word”. But Please Explain This Your Statement:

‘God’s little helpers’ ... are not usually edifying people to be around, and can often be quite troublesome to Pastors and elders. Those who allow the Holy Spirit to witness through their lives in character, conduct and speech feel no need to ‘help’ the Holy Spirit in any way.

The following which i sent as a response to *ObeyGod.com* concerning their article “Legalism, Grace, and Faith”, is also **helpful** on this important issue:

In your article “Legalism, Grace, and Faith” you say:

Let’s look at an example of how a Christian might consider use of his “free time”. I do not have any rules that forbid my attendance at a basketball game and I do not believe that such a rule should be formulated or promoted. Rather, let us promote the love of God! If someone says in his heart truthfully before God, “I love God so much, my life is just consumed with him; what can I possibly do for my God tonight?” And if the best thing that that person can think of to glorify God is to attend a basketball game, then he better go and glorify God. If there are many other things that would better glorify God, why would

the person want to go if indeed his heart's desire was to love and please God? I am not suggesting that a person should invent a rule against ever going to a basketball game and that such a rule would then save him. Rather, those who love God with all their hearts consider how best to glorify him. Therefore, it is not my practice to attend sporting events because my motive would not be to love, adore and please God. I know in my heart that there are many other things that would better glorify God...many other ways that I could best spend my time to bring God glory. But if he sends me I will go; I have no rule forbidding it. One time God did send me to a basketball game and as a result someone repented.

[My Response To *ObeyGod.com*] How were you convinced that the true-God (and **not** another spirit) was the One that sent you to that game as you were on your way to that game (to teach your convert your faith: that if "God" tells him/her that it's okay to watch Basketball, Then It's Okay). **Which "God" is that?** Your thinking, like majority of Christian Leaders, is opposed to Scripture on this issue, **Acts 15:28-29**. The New Testament's Emphasis is that: Christians should flee from the idolatries of the land and idolatrous celebrations **even if the Christian has power over that idol (1Corinthians ch.8, ch.10)**. ...

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **GraceTruth7.org** <[email@gracetruth7.org](mailto:email@gracetruth7.org)>

Date: 13 January 2014 16:23

Subject: Pets Are Delicious Meat

To: [RealPeople@obeygod.com](mailto:RealPeople@obeygod.com)

From: **GraceTruth7.org**

In your article "Legalism, Grace, and Faith", you say: "It is not that reading their Bibles will save them, but that those who have true saving faith will not want to be distracted from the Word of God."

Truly those who know the saving grace of Christ will hear His voice as He discourages them away from wasting the free-time (He has granted them) on worthless things: self-pleasures, entertainment, etc. **However your statement: "It is not that reading their Bibles will save them", is contrary to the Mind of God: 1Timothy 4:16 "Take heed to yourself and to the teaching. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you."**

Hebrews 2:1-3 **"Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.** For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we **neglect** so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him"

True Christians have been saved, **are being saved (because they are allowing the Saviour to be Master presently)**, and will be saved in the future when they see the Saviour in all of His glory.

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A Christian, Jew or Gentile, isn't required to keep Jewish Symbolic Laws (Sabbaths, Kosher, Washings, etc). Colossians 2:16-17 "So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a [Jewish] holy-day or a new moon or Sabbaths, which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ." Those who like to observe the symbolic aspects of the Torah may do so with the understanding that: **the Symbolic are Not the matters of the heart which God always requires of all, whether in the Tanakh or New Testament;** yet the Lord Jesus and His Apostles teach His followers to observe the following symbols: Immersion in Water (Baptism) and the Lord's Supper. 1Corinthians 11 is New Testament and it teaches followers of MeshiYah to observe the symbol of head-covering for women and the opposite for males when Christians gather for fellowship.

Most Evangelical Preachers are confused or being deceitful when they say that: the phrase "Doubtful Matters" refers to any issue Christians are debating.

The phrase "Doubtful Matters" is from Romans 14 (New Testament), **and it's limited to the Symbolic things of the Torah.** In the New Testament, those symbols from the Torah are called "Doubtful Matters" because: **Whether you observe those Symbolic things or Not, doesn't matter anymore.** Listen to YahShua in Mark 7:14-23. Colossians 2:16-17 "So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a [Jewish] holy-day or a new moon or Sabbaths, which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ."

**It is lawless to use that portion of Romans 14 (concerning Doubtful Matters), for issues regarding lifestyle or passions and how time is spent, or that we shouldn't condemn wrong practices such as the wasting of time in Self-pleasures and Play (1Corinthians 10:5-7).** Those verses in Romans 14 instructing us **not to judge**, only apply to things which are **not of the heart** (e.g., Foods, Jewish holy days, Symbolic Laws of the Torah), **not** lifestyle or how we spend the time God has granted us, or issues relating to morality. "A-muse-ment" means "Not to think"; a true-teacher of the Mind of God will always discourage the sheep from such a worthless path. Psalm 1:1-2 "Blessed is the one whose ... **delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates [muses] day and night.**"

Bible-believing Preachers (such as the Calvary Chapels) continue to lead many astray to a fake-Heaven by teaching that Grace doesn't prohibit us from having Sacred Cows (Pets), watching Star Wars, Disneyland, Sports, Gun-shows, Pageants, Secular music,

Video Games, having the U.S. Flag among us during Fellowship, Antique Car shows, Harley Davidson shows, partaking of July 4 “Freedom celebrations”, etc., **IDOLS AND IDOLATRIES under the guise of “Christian Liberties” via Perversion of Grace.**

Bible-believing Preachers (such as the Calvary Chapels) say: Don’t be Legalistic. Where in God’s Word does He restrict us from ... (fill in the blank) ... Don’t be Legalistic, there’s no place in God’s Word where we are restricted from ... (fill in the blank) ... . Jesus came to set us free and give us abundant life.

That type of preaching is same as Genesis 3:1 “... the serpent said to the woman, has God indeed said, **you shall Not eat of every tree** of the garden? [i.e., **God hasn’t restricted you**]” 3:4“Then the serpent said to the woman, you will **not** surely die” [i.e., you have eternal life, no matter what].

*The Berean Call* - April 09 newsletter - Q. & A. section: “... all Christians, on the basis of their saving faith in Christ, **Regardless of Their Lives**, go to heaven upon death ...” (<http://www.thebereancall.org/node/7636>). When Bible-believing Teachers such as *The Berean Call* have refused to make public corrections on such Lies/Confusion, who can we call “brother” in these last-days?

Paul agreed with his fellow apostles as they concluded: “Take them [fellow Jews] and be purified with them, and pay their expenses so that they may shave their heads, and that all may know that those things of which they were informed concerning you are nothing, but that you yourself also walk orderly and keep the law [Symbolic Laws of the Torah]. But concerning the Gentiles who believe, we have written and decided that **they should observe no such thing, except that they should keep themselves from things offered to IDOLS, from blood, from things strangled, and from sexual immorality**” (Acts 21:24-25). Infinite is the difference between the Moral Law that the Jewish God effects in those who are His, versus the Symbolic Aspects of the Torah. The original Apostles and Paul knew they were no more bound to the Symbolic Laws of the Torah, but concerning the Moral Laws, they had to continuously allow the Holy Spirit to live in them.

September 2010: Recently, *The Berean Call* sent out the following via e.mail:

“When I hear Christians say, ‘I don’t do this, and I don’t do that, and I am following a set of rules,’ I immediately recognize that they know very little about the grace of God. ...”

But Acts 16:4 says: “As the apostles went through the cities, they delivered to the Churches **THE DECREES TO KEEP**, which were determined by the apostles and elders at Jerusalem”. Romans 3:31 “Do we then void the law through faith [and Grace]? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law [**Moral Laws of the Torah, Not the Symbolic/ceremonial**].”

Concerning Joshua 24:14-15, all Israel knew that to serve any idol would bring the death penalty upon them by the God of Israel; but Bible-believing Preachers (such as the Calvary Chapels) say Joshua was **offering them a choice between the true-God versus idols. THAT’S A LIE.** Joshua 24:14-15 “Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the

other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD! And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, **whether the gods** which your fathers served on the other side of the River, **or the gods** of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. ...”. I hope you noticed that the “options/choice” Joshua gave them **was between various idols** (after he said: “if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD”). He was speaking in a **figure of speech** (i.e., which of those gods will you follow when they are all worthless).

Some Evangelical Leaders such as the Calvary Chapels don't own Calvinistic teachings, yet they speak well of Calvinists such as John MacArthur **And Subtly Reject 2John 1:10-11, As They Do Other Scriptures.** 2John 1:10-11 “If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house nor greet him, for whoever greets him shares in his evil deeds.” Yet the Pastors spoke highly of a well-known Pluralist from 1999 to 2008, praising that Occultist, and saying he is Christian. Chuck Smith refused repentance when i questioned him on this issue on their Q. and A. radio program on kwave 107.9 FM in December 2003. Brian Brodersen approved of Mel Gibson's Marian Catholic movie in October 2003, months before the movie came-out. Most Calvary Chapel Leaders follow the example of Chuck Smith and refuse to alarm their poor sheep concerning Preachers such as Rick Warren (servants of the fake-Christ); they refuse to **identify by name** such false-teachers who many embrace as “Christian”, thinking such teachers are sheep when they are actually wolves in sheep clothing.

Many so-called “Bible-believing” Teachers such as John MacArthur teach that God created certain people for Eternal Punishment and that nothing can change that God-ordained decision **including the sacrifice of Christ which they say is “Limited Atonement” only for the few** who will end-up in Heaven because God gave them “Irresistible Grace” which He won't give to the many whom He created for Eternal Punishment under His Wrath forever. As contrary as the preceding is to the God of the Jewish Scripture: Old and New Testament, Evangelical Leaders who don't have that heresy, refuse to publicly alarm people against such big-teachers; they refuse to publicly identify John MacArthur with his false-teaching as he rejects: 1John 2:2 “And Christ Himself is the propitiation for our sins, **and not for ours only but also for the whole world**”. See my article “God Did Not Create Anyone For Hell”.

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