

Christian Priorities in a Secular World

Colossians 2:8 warns us of worldly ideas or philosophies that have a devastating effect upon our well-being. Colossians chapter 3 provides a prescription for thriving in an environment that is hostile towards spiritual truth.

"As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: **Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith**, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ." (Col 2:6-8)

"If ye then be risen with Christ, **seek those things which are above**, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are **dead**, and your **life** is hid with Christ in God." (Col 3:1-3)

"The things above" is the image of Christ that is given by the Light of His Word. Col Colossians Chapter 3 contrasts [the moral opposites of the Decalogue](#). The opposites of the commandments point to the [Creation Ordinances](#) where [the physical laws of the first seven days](#) are shown to reflect the moral (spiritual) laws in Deuteronomy. We are to walk in the spiritual observance of these laws, not only in the natural observance of these laws (physics). God's will for us is that we are conformed to the image of His Son. The Light represents that image (Col 1:12-13). We are not that Light (John 1:8, 1Jn1:8-9).

Our "death" and "life" from Col 3:3 and the ["Roots"](#) from Col 2:6 are perfectly symbolized in the planting, germination, growth, and harvesting of a fruit bearing tree (Psalm 1, Jer 17:5-9, Matt 7:15-19). The [Roots and Fruits of the Decalogue](#) show our dependence upon Christ through His grace 2Cor12:9. God's grace is the ability to do His will.

Our gifts of technology are particular seasonal fruit from trees whose roots are anchored in Christ

For example, one useful exercise is to show the ability to do God's will by looking at the [spiritual roots of mathematics](#) such as justice, the single(not double) Standard, equity, impartiality, commerce, abstraction etc of Christ. In so doing, we should contrast the "natural man's observance" and the "spiritual man's observance" of roots using Jer 17:5-9 and 1Cor2:14 as a guide.

Light represents our destination (conformity to the image of Christ, Col 1:12-13, 3:2)...the tree represents God's grace, (God's Riches at Christ's Expense, Jn 15:4, Col 2:6) to enable us get to the destination of conformity to His image.

A common worldly idea that frequently devastates believers today says that our faith and our reasoning skills are mutually exclusive. As a consequence, we separate our

spiritual existence from our practical work experience. Six days we work; one day we worship. [Our work and our worship should be connected](#) (Col 2:6-7, John 6:27) Colossians Chapter 3 presents the Creation Ordinances: THE ALL INCLUSIVE REMEDY FOR WORLDLY PHILOSOPHIES. There is a spiritual meaning behind the physical laws we observe on earth. The spiritual meaning is more important than the physical meaning (Col 3:2b, Jn 3:27, Jn 6:63). The Creation Ordinances show us that even [the weight balance scale](#) (Deut 25:13-16) where deductive reasoning is used for math, science, commerce, and in our justice system has spiritual origins. **The weight balance scale demonstrates that we reason from faith in what we trust.** Our faith is not a one day "ritual". Instead, it is the practice of using the Creation Ordinances to understand what is real and what is truth. Colossians shows us how not to be incapacitated by worldly ideas. It shows how to be transformed using the Creation Ordinances as the empowering source (Col 1:12-13): http://dikaiois.net/The_Creation_Ordinances_Teachers_Guide_3.pdf

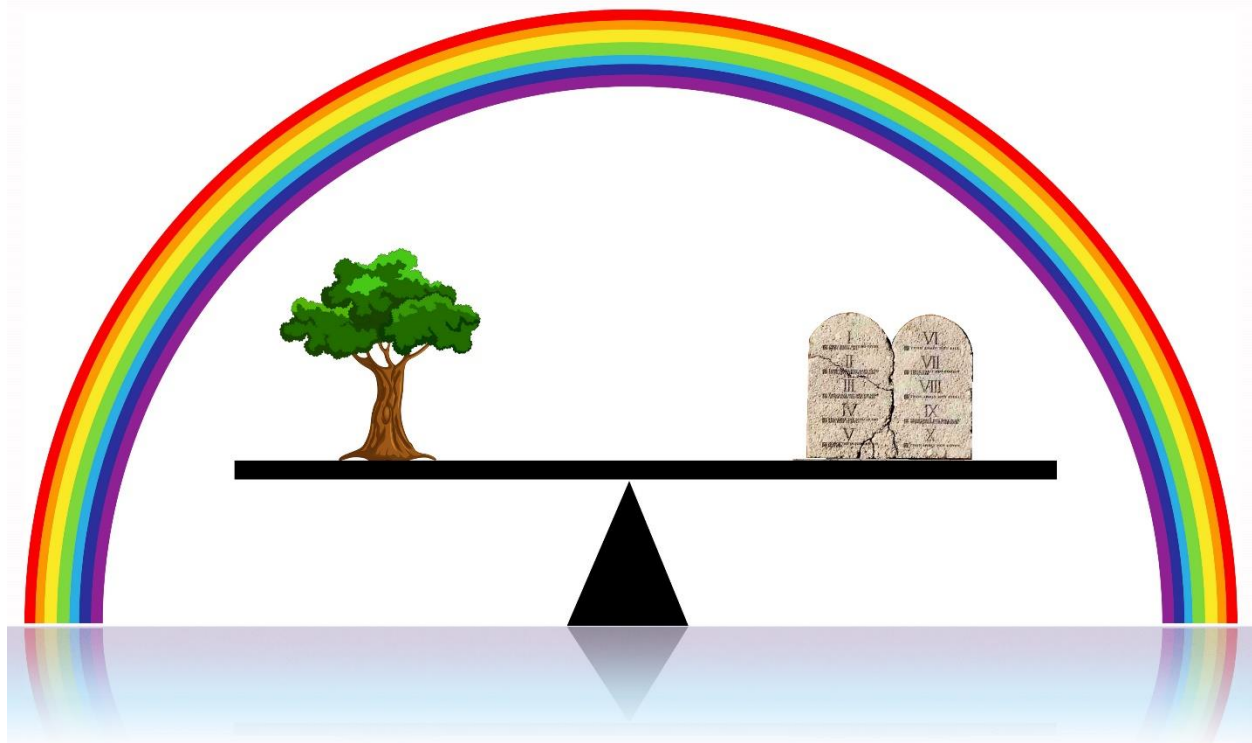


Figure 1 "A Liter of Living Water"

The kilogram is defined from the weight of a liter of water at 4 degrees C (water's maximum density). All of our knowledge of weights and standards pivots on a cube that measures 10 centimeters by 10 centimeters by 10 centimeters ($1000 \text{ cm}^3 = 1 \text{ liter}$)

I call that image of the rainbow and the Decalogue " A Liter of Living Water". The name and the image reflect how we have a choice to use natural laws as our standard, or we can use spiritual ones as our Standard, Col 3:1,2.

Without the Light of God, it is easy for us to major in minors as Luke 11:42 points out. If we use the natural standard, our worship becomes ritual instead of a relationship with Christ. 1 Cor 15:42-50 describes how the spiritual man is greater than the natural man. This is not to say that natural laws are useless, but to say they have a deeper spiritual context when seen under the Light. As Jesus said, "these you ought to have done, and should not have left the other undone" Luke 11:42b

The Creation Ordinances of Commerce: Deut 23:15 through Deut 25:16