Living the Christian Life:
The Surest Way to Fail
Colossians 2

Introduction:

- Mankind has devised a myriad of religious systems whereby one can supposedly find *favor* with God.

- In 1 Corinthians 3:11 we learn that *Christ* is the only foundation.

- But verse 10 says that every man should take heed how he *build* thereupon.

- Many people have built their Christian lives on a religious system of rules, laws, and moral values.

- This is not God's plan for your life. In fact, it is the surest way to fail.

- In Colossians 2 we will examine four reasons why this is true.

First, because religious systems are *man*-made. vs. 4, 8, 16, 18, 22

- The Pharisees had an intricate religious system of laws and traditions, but Jesus said that they made clean the outside, but they were *filthy* on the inside.

- *"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves."* **Matthew 23:15**

Second, religious systems create *pride*. vs. 18

- Religious systems create two reactions in people: pride or discouragement.

  1. When you're **keeping** the rules, you feel very good about yourself - a sense of pride.

  2. When you're **not** keeping the rules, you feel discouragement and condemnation.

Third, religious systems cannot bring victory over *sin*. vs. 20-23

- You can't overcome fleshly **sins** with fleshly **effort**.

Fourth, religious systems lead you away from *faith* in Christ. vs. 8

- Religious systems are mere substitutes for a personal, intimate **walk** by faith with Jesus Christ.

- Religious systems are **shadows** (vs. 17) that Satan uses to lead people away from the only source of true life and power - Jesus!