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 _____ with God.

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

- But verse 10 says that every man should take heed how he _____ 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 _____-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 _____ 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 _____.
vs. 18

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

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

    2. When you're _____ keeping the rules, you feel discouragement and condemnation.

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

- You can't overcome fleshly _____ with fleshly _____.

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

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

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