

# INTERFERENCE ASCETICISM

## COLOSSIANS 2:18, 19

*How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)*

BACKGROUND: Asceticism always appeals to your flesh. It is insidious in that its proponents pretend to be part of you, but they are not. These ascetics maneuver to come between you and your Lord. (See Colossians 2:18, ESV)

**ATTACKS YOUR POWER.** False humility considers oneself better than others. In Christ there is no one superior to anyone else. Unlike these puffed-up ascetics, we are to honor others more than ourselves. When we do this, we receive grace, God's power. (Colossians 2:18, fn 2:18[1<sup>st</sup>], Galatians 3:28, 29, fn 3:28, Philippians 2:3, fn 2:3, Luke 14:11, fn 14:11, James 4:6, fn 4:4-6) *How could you honor others better than yourself, and why is this important for your personal relationship with Jesus?*

**ATTACKS YOUR WORSHIP.** False worship here teaches that you cannot go or pray to Jesus without an intermediary. To pray to or through an intermediary, even an angel, is prohibited by God's word. Praying includes worship, and Jesus says we are to worship Him only. (Colossians 2:18, fn 2:18[2<sup>nd</sup>], I Timothy 2:5, 6, fn 2:5, 6, Revelation 22:8, 9, John 14:6, 13, 20, fn 14:5, 6, Hebrews 4:14-16, fn 4:16, Matthew 4:10) *Why should you worship and pray to Jesus only?*

**ATTACKS YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.** Involvement in this kind of asceticism dampens your relationship with your heavenly Father. You will not have the growth in the Lord that God intended. To worship according to this form of asceticism, is to lose the prize of a more intimate personal relationship with Jesus. (Colossians 2:19, fn 2:19, Colossians 2:4, 6, 7, fn 2:4ff, Colossians 2:9, 10, fn 2:10, I John 4:1-6, fn 4:1-3, Philippians 3:12-15, fn 3:12-14) *How can you tell if you are being misled by a so-called Christian leader?*

*According to this preparation how may we pray for you to be strengthened in your personal relationship with Jesus? How else may we pray for you?*

