

## The Shadow and the Reality – Colossians 2:16-19

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Now that Paul has emphasized what God has once-for-all completed through the work of Christ (2:11-15), he warns the Colossians not to fall prey to any teaching which attempts to rob the cross of its full significance and so lead them into thinking they need something more. In these verses we see why Paul says these people are grasping at shadows when they should be embracing the Reality.

### 1. Grasping at Shadows

#### a. The Shadows (2:16-17)

(1) Dietary Laws

(2) Observances

#### b. Syncretism (2:18)

### 2. Embracing the Reality (2:19)

#### a. The Exaltation of Christ, the Head

#### b. The Edification of the Church, the Body