

The Colossian Heresy

2:4	I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments
2:8	See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit

	Jewish Elements	Mystic Elements
<u>Heresy:</u>	according to human tradition (2:8)	according to the elemental spirits of the world (2:8)
<u>additions to Christ alone</u>	let no one pass judgment on you (2:16) in questions of food and drink or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath (2:16) why do you submit to regulations: “Do not taste” (2:20-21)	Let no one disqualify you (2:18) insisting on asceticism and worship of angels going on in detail about visions (2:18) promoting asceticism and severity to the body (2:23)
<u>Response:</u>		
<u>Christ is superior</u>	These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. (2:17)	who is the head of all rule and authority (2:10) disarmed the rulers and authorities ... triumphing over them in him (2:15)
<u>Sanctification through Christ alone</u>	These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion ...but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh. (2:23)	not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body ... grows with a growth that is from God. (2:19)
<u>Transition from old to new</u>	In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh (2:11)	with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world (2:20)

2:8-10	according to human tradition according to the elemental spirits of the world	according to Christ
	empty deceit	⁹ For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰ and you have been filled in him

Col. 2:16	Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath.
1 Chron. 23:31	³⁰ And they were to stand every morning, thanking and praising the LORD, and likewise at evening, ³¹ and whenever burnt offerings were offered to the LORD on Sabbaths, new moons, and feast days, according to the number required of them, regularly before the LORD.
2 Chron. 2:4	Behold, I am about to build a house for the name of the LORD my God and dedicate it to him for ... burnt offerings morning and evening, on the Sabbaths and the new moons and the appointed feasts of the LORD our God, as ordained forever for Israel.
2 Chron. 31:3	The contribution of the king from his own possessions was for the burnt offerings: the burnt offerings of morning and evening, and the burnt offerings for the Sabbaths, the new moons, and the appointed feasts, as it is written in the Law of the LORD.
Ezek. 45:17a	It shall be the prince's duty to furnish the burnt offerings, grain offerings, and drink offerings, at the feasts, the new moons, and the Sabbaths, all the appointed feasts of the house of Israel
Hos. 2:11	And I will put an end to all her mirth, her feasts, her new moons, her Sabbaths, and all her appointed feasts.

“An Old Testament/Jewish derivation for the false teachers’ insistence on keeping certain religious “days” is much more likely. The threefold religious festival (*heortē*), New Moon celebration (*neomēnia*), and Sabbath day (*sabbatōn*) is common in the Old Testament (e.g., 1 Chr. 23:31; 2 Chr. 2:3; 31:3; Ezek. 45:17; Hos. 2:13); and “Sabbath,” while occasionally observed by Gentiles, is, of course, a distinctly Jewish phenomenon. In the Old Testament, “festivals” include both the annual “pilgrimage” festivals (Passover/Unleavened Bread; Booths, or Tabernacles; and Weeks/Firstfruits) and other special times of community observance.”

(Douglas Moo, *Pillar New Testament Commentary*, 220)