

Diamonds

“Ancient Voices Still Whispering”

What Past Religious Forces of Deception Do I Need be Aware of Today?

1. Beware of those stressing strict activity in earning God’s love (legalism).

- **Col. 2:16-17:** *“Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. ¹⁷These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.”*

2. Beware of those stressing subjective experience in knowing God’s will (mysticism).

- **Col. 2:18-19:** *“Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you. Such a person also goes into great detail about what they have seen; they are puffed up with idle notions by their unspiritual mind. ¹⁹They have lost connection with the head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow.”*

3. Beware of those stressing self-denial in obtaining God’s blessing (asceticism).

- **Col. 2:20-23:** *“Since you died with Christ to the elemental spiritual forces of this world, why, as though you still belonged to the world, do you submit to its rules: ²¹‘Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!’? ²²These rules, which have to do with things that are all destined to perish with use, are based on merely human commands and teachings. ²³Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.”*