**We Are Complete in Christ**

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**Colossians 2:2-10**

**Wednesday Night**

**July 27, 2021**

**Colossians 2:2-10**

2 that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

4 Now this I say lest anyone should deceive you with persuasive words. 5 For though I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.

6 As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, 7 rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. 8 Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; 10 and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

**2 that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.**

Saints, Paul wanted those he had not been able to visit to know that he was interested in them and was praying diligently for them. He simply prayed that the Colossians would be encouraged and that they would be knit together by strong ties of love. These two characteristics would help them resist false teaching.

Paul also wanted these churches to have full confidence because they have complete understanding of God’s secret plan, which is Christ himself. Christ is the secret, yet he is a secret revealed to those who believe.

This complete understanding obtained through a personal relationship with Christ himself assures believers of the truth and helps them recognize and avoid heresy. Everything anyone wants to know about God and his purposes in the world is answered in the person of Christ.

The secret is revealed because it is Christ in whom lie hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. True wisdom is found only in Christ; true knowledge is found only in Christ. Knowledge is often described as good judgment, wisdom as application of that good judgment in the form of good actions.

The false teachers claimed to have a higher knowledge than what ordinary believers possessed. Against this, Paul argued that all wisdom and knowledge were in Christ and that Christ’s treasures were accessible to every believer. Hidden does not mean concealed but rather that they were laid up or stored away to be made available to those who desire a relationship with Christ.

Certainly these words greatly comforted the Colossian believers who did not have to look any farther for wisdom and knowledge than to their Savior, Jesus Christ.

The believers already possessed all wisdom and knowledge, yet they had a long way to go to attain maturity and complete understanding.

**4 Now this I say lest anyone should deceive you with persuasive words.**

Saints, the believers in Colosse already knew what they needed to know to be saved; they already knew the One they needed to know to have eternal life. But they needed to grow to maturity in the faith they had received.

That way no one would be able to deceive them with persuasive arguments. The false teachers did a good job of making their teachings sound plausible and of using persuasive tactics to cause the believers to question their faith. When believers are fully committed to the truth in Jesus, they will not be easily deluded

**5 For though I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.**

Saints, Paul couldn’t go to Colosse due to his imprisonment, but his heart was with them. He knew that they were living as they should and had strong faith in Christ. These two characteristics caused Paul to be happy, for they meant that the Colossians had not succumbed to the false teaching. They were a unified body, steadfast in their faith.

**6 As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,**

Saints, the Colossians had not merely accepted the doctrines of Christ, they had accepted Christ himself as Lord. The verb accepted means more than the moment a person asks Christ into his or her heart. Paul most likely used the word, taken from Judaism, to describe the transmitting and safeguarding of traditions and teachings from one person or generation to another.

Thus when Paul reminded the Colossians of when they received Christ Jesus, he was reminding them of their receiving the proclamation and teaching, and their confession of faith, their baptism, and their new status as members of Christ’s body. Because Christ dwells within all believers through the Holy Spirit, they should live in obedience to him. The past event of receiving Christ should be a present reality in the believers’ daily lives.

**Ephesians 4:1-7**

1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, 2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, 3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. 7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.

**7 rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.**

Saints, Paul used several metaphors in these verses. Each metaphor has a specific and profound point for Christian living.

First, the Colossians were to let their roots grow down into Christ. Just as plants draw nourishment from the soil through their roots, so the believers should draw up nourishment from Christ. The more they would draw strength from Christ, the less they would be fooled by those who falsely claimed to have life’s answers.

**Ephesians 3:17-19**

17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height-- 19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Second, the Colossians were to grow in faith. Like a plant, they were “rooted” once and for all, but they had to grow continuously.

Or like a building, they had a solid foundation, but had to keep on building with solid materials in order to be strong.

**2 Peter 3:18**

"but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ"

Third, the Colossians were to be strong and vigorous in the truth. This too is continuous action, an ongoing process. The truth which these Colossian believers had been taught should be a source of abundant thanksgiving. True understanding of what Christ has done on behalf of believers can lead to no other response than gratefulness.

**Ephesians 6:10-13**

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

**8 Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.**

Saints, Paul strongly warned about the heresy’s effect on those who believed it. They would be led astray. According to Paul, the heresy amounted to nothing more than empty philosophy and high-sounding nonsense.

The word translated “philosophy” occurs only here in the New Testament, so this may have been a significant feature of this heresy. In Greek, the word “philosophy” means “love of wisdom.”

**Galatians 1:14-15**

14 And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers. 15 But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace...

Paul was a gifted philosopher, so he was not condemning education or the study of philosophy. Instead, he was condemning false philosophy, the kind that is deceptive because it keeps people from seeing the truth.

Paul was so disparaging toward this heresy because it came from human thinking and from the evil powers of this world. No man-made religion can lead to the truth, for truth can be found only in Christ. True philosophy will focus on Jesus Christ—it will not put Christ in any lower position, nor will it focus on human endeavor.

**1 Timothy 6:20-21**

20 O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane and idle babble and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge-- 21 by professing it some have strayed concerning the faith. Grace be with you. Amen.

**9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;**

Saints, Paul asserted Christ’s divine nature. In Christ designates a real intimate relationship rather than a mystical relationship. God’s saving action happens in the person of Jesus Christ.

Saints, the fullness of God refers to all the divine attributes. God’s nature and person are in Christ’s human body. The false teaching said that Christ could not have been both man and God. But Paul clearly stated that this was indeed the case.

Saints, Paul made two significant points in this sentence:

**1. Christ was not another deity along with God; instead, God’s fullness was dwelling uniquely and supremely in Christ.**

**2. Christ was not less than God.**

**John 1:14-18**

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. 15 John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.' "

16 And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. 17 For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.

**10 and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.**

Saints, not only does all the fullness of the Deity dwell in Christ, but all believers have been given fullness (been made complete) through their union with Christ.

The Colossians lacked nothing outside of Christ; in him they had everything they needed for salvation and right living. But what does this “completeness” mean? It means that there is nothing lacking in a believer’s relationship with God.

**2 Timothy 3:16-17**

16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

**Philippians 4:13**

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"

Saints, Christ is not just one of many intermediaries or angels who must be worshiped, as the heresy maintained. Instead, he is the Lord over every ruler and authority in the universe. Because Christ is the head and is superior to any angel or archangel, it would be absurd to worship or venerate any angel. Again this countered the false teaching.

**Ephesians 1:18-22**

18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power

20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.

22 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

**In Closing:**

Saints, Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

**Short Movie Slide>**

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let’s Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace.” In Jesus Name!**