



## A Study of Colossians

Wednesday, July 18 - Tuesday, July 24

Week #5 | Colossians 2:6-29

<sup>6</sup>Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, <sup>7</sup>having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude. <sup>8</sup>See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ. <sup>9</sup>For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, <sup>10</sup>and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority; and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ; <sup>12</sup>having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. <sup>13</sup>When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, <sup>14</sup>having cancelled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. <sup>15</sup>When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him. <sup>16</sup>Therefore no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day—<sup>17</sup>things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ. <sup>18</sup>Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on visions he has seen, inflated without cause by fleshly mind, <sup>19</sup>and not holding fast to the head, from whom the entire body, being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments, grows with a growth which is from God. <sup>20</sup>If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees, such as, <sup>21</sup>"Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!" <sup>22</sup>(Which all refer to things destined to perish with use)—in accordance with the commandments and teaching of men? <sup>23</sup>These are matters which have, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self-abasement and severe treatment of the body, but are of no value against fleshly indulgence.

## Live "InChrist"

### I. PAUL'S SUMMARY STATEMENT, CONCLUDING HIS MAIN POINT:

*v6 Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him*

Divine exaltation belongs to Christ (1:15-20). . . in Him are found:

- reconciliation to God vv1:21-23
- the revelation of the mystery of Christ vv1:24-27
- believers' perfection vv1:28-29
- education (wisdom) v2:1-5

**Conclusion** | therefore believers should continue to live in Him (vv6,7). . . the Christian life matures as it began—"just as you received Him. . ."

**This is Paul's continued theme** | 2 Cor. 11:4; Gal 1:6

**EXHORTATION** | "Don't forsake divine authority for any human sophistry" ie, "rooted in Him" is the basis upon which all growth/maturity occurs. So, if you forsake the "in Him" and move to "in the world" for your growth

The following will NOT happen. . .

*v7 having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.*

**NO...**

"Firmly rooted"

"built up"

"established"

"overflowing with gratitude"

**But Rather...**

*"blown to and fro with every wind of doctrine" Eph. 4:14*

**NOTE THE FORMULA** | As followers of Christ are "built up" they become "overflowing with gratitude."

**TEST** | How's your "Gratitude" meter?

**Idea** | "Overflowing" means to literally be so filled up with something that it cannot be controlled, kept, contained, etc. Col. 1:12

## II. REACHING FOR THE HIGHER LIFE IN CHRIST 2:8-23

A. Argument against “other ways of believing” (counterpoint: Gnostics and Legalists) vv2:8-10

1. Gnosticism misses the mark

v8 | See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.

**Note** | Not against philosophy in general but rather “hollow and deceptive philosophy” (the idea of an idea being “empty”)

**EMPHASIS** | basing what I believe on “human tradition” rather than “in Christ.”

Christian Philosophy (2Cor. 10:5) “take every thought captive in obedience to Christ.”

CAREFUL—not to be “taken captive” by “Elementary Principles”

**KEY POINT** | The image is subtle, being taken captive is a dangerous process.

v9 *For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form*

**Note the difference between “Full” and “empty”**

Christ is “full”

The world is “empty”

**IMPORTANT ARGUMENT** | “fullness of deity dwells in bodily form—remember, Gnostic style belief challenged the fact that Christ was an angel and did not have a “human body” that his body was only apparent but not real. Paul confirms Christ as fully God and Man (also see 1 John 4:1-6).

v10 *and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority*

**REMEMBER** | Not only all the “fullness” of God in Christ but also believers have been given fullness in Christ.

My fullness comes from Christ’s fullness. (2Pet.1:4). YOU ARE NOT GOD BUT SIMPLY “SHARE IN HIM.” COL. 1:18. ALSO, they have power over all other ruling powers v1:16, v2:15 including those who are persuasive in their speech and living “according to the world.” YES, YOU CAN RESIST!!! Eph. 1:18—power!

B. Legalism Countered: Reality is found “In Christ”—therefore, watch out for “rule makers”

**NOTE** | Our identity is “in Him” In Him, is the source of my security, confidence and identity—therefore. . .

v11 | *and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ;*

v12 | *having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.*

v13 | *When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, 14 having cancelled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.*

v15 | *When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.*

**RESULT** | The Scope of Christ’s accomplishments on the cross:

1. circumcision
2. burial and resurrection
3. death and new life
4. cancelled criminal record
5. power over the world’s ways

**CONCLUSION** | The Cross renders unnecessary any further human traditions and rules (in this case—Gnosticism—the mystics, and Judaism—the rule makers).

### **BIG QUESTION:**

How do I attempt to get more out of life outside of a relationship with Jesus Christ?

- Materialism
- Relationships
- Self help
- ?