

Colossians
“A Worthy Walk”
III. Main Teaching: 1:15-4:6

2:4-23 **Walking in the Word of Christ**

2:8-10 In Fullness – 2:11-17 In Forgiveness

2:9-15
“All I ever wanted and needed”

I. Intro.

II. Vs. 9-10 Jesus completes me

III. Vs. 11-15 We’ve changed

I. Intro.

Last week Paul warned the Colossian believers not to be cheated through false teaching and this week he speaks about why such a further pursuit is a waste of time as we read in verse 9 “*For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.*” Amazingly Paul doesn’t counter this false teaching by attacking the teaching, instead He chooses to speak yet again of the person and work of Christ. The word “*fullness*” means “*sum total*” and by it Paul is saying that in Jesus the sum total of all of God’s being and attributes exist. The remarkable truth is that every believer shares that fullness as Paul declares in the Greek that we are permanently complete in Him. When we become born again we are born complete in Christ and our spiritual growth is **not by addition** but rather **by nutrition** as **we grow from the inside out, nothing needs to be added.** Paul will highlight **five truths** with regards to Jesus. The first 1 has to do with the **character of Christ** and the next four deal with the **work of Christ** on our behalf.

II. Vs. 9-10 Jesus completes me

Vs. 9-10 This statement of Paul is a full declaration of the complete and full Deity of Jesus and says that, “*Since all the fullness of the Godhead dwells in Jesus, then He cannot be Michael the Arch Angel, the Spirit Brother of Lucifer etc.*” If Jesus isn’t who he declared to be then we aren’t complete in Him. **Our completeness in Christ isn’t something that we achieve it is something that we enjoy!**

1. “*In Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily..*”: **When they received Jesus they already got everything they needed.** This phrase of Paul’s isn’t meant to express that Jesus is both the Father and the Son as Oneness Pentecostals suggest. What Paul is saying is that when you and I received Jesus by faith the whole of the godhead came into your life. Spiritual boredom had left these new believers susceptible to false teaching that was claiming that there was something more that they could add to Jesus, some secret teaching that would cause them to be super saints. So Paul tells them, “*What more can you add to God?*” All that remains for us is a continual quest, **an unending discovery of who God is and how Who He is can be applied into every aspect of our lives.**

Having made the statement, Paul now traces how this happened to them. **In these next four statements he tells how believers share in the fullness of God in Christ.**

2. Vs. 11 **First, he declares, they were circumcised with Christ:** There are some in the Christian faith that want to equate circumcision with baptism but it is clear by the next verse which Paul speaks of baptism that he doesn’t view them as the same thing. Because most circumcision today is done for hygiene reasons its

biblical meaning is often not considered. There are **three things to consider about circumcision:**

- a. Circumcision involves the male reproductive organ; that which God has ordained for “**procreation**”.
- b. It also is a “**private**” part of the male body, one that is for the most part covered, hidden from view of others.
- c. Throughout history this organ was directly related to a man’s ego, his machismo, his manhood or if you will his “**pride**”.

Those three realities (**procreation, private** and **pride**) go a long way in understanding why God chose circumcision as a symbol both to Abraham, the Israelites as well as Christians. Deut. 10:16 and 30:6 speak of this reality calling it a symbol of the “*circumcision of the heart.*” What God is saying symbolically is **that if you want to be able to “reproduce”, to be successful in this life then you are going to have to expose that which is private and cut off the pride filled life.**

When we expose our pride to the knife of the Word of God we see what fallen humanity really is, just dead flesh and there is nothing to brag about with dead flesh! Now notice in verse 11 that Paul says that, “In Him (that is Jesus) you (those that by faith have received Jesus) were also circumcised.” Then to make sure that these Colossian believers understood his symbolism, Paul goes on to explain it saying, “*with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ.*” This is what Paul called the “**circumcision of the heart**”. Jesus took upon Himself our fallen flesh our “**pride**” and sin nature and when we receive Him we are declaring that our

pride and self-worth is worthless and does nothing to make us right with God. Oh to be sure unrepentive man will still boast in and praises it but it will never gain us one inch before God. The Old man is dead and as Jesus said in John 15:5 “*Without me, you can do nothing!*” The truth is apart from Jesus mankind is impotent and cannot please God no matter how hard they may try all their works are like filthy rags!

3. Vs. 12-13 **Next Paul speaks about baptism: And he declares two things about baptism in these two verses:**

- a. “*Buried with him in baptism....being dead in your trespasses*”: The first symbol of baptism has to do with **our identification with the death and burial of Christ**. Jesus took on our trespasses, our sin and in baptism we are publically declaring our death to our former life. So as we go under the water we are publically saying that our former way of self-centered living is dead to us and we are burying it under the water.
- b. “*You were also raised with Him through faith in the working of God....He has made alive together with Him*”: Ah but that is only one part of the symbol of baptism as we don’t leave a person under the water buried, we raise them up. **So in baptism we not only identify with the burial of Christ we identify with His resurrection and imparting new life and power to live the new life in Christ.**

Trespass is a specific type of sin and means to “*overstep a boundary*”. So in baptism we are recognizing Christ’s work in overcoming our old nature by burying it and being raised and alive in Christ.

4. Vs. 14 In this verse we see another work of Christ, **forgiveness**: What's great about Jesus' **forgiveness is that it doesn't stop at our sin and failures, past present and future.** No it goes all the way to, "*wiping out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us.*" Handwriting of requirements has in mind a list of moral debt before God. Jesus changed the law, as the basis of being our right standing with Him. It still stands to as a standard of morality and conscious, a compass to point us towards Jesus. But it will never again for us be the standard by which we will be declared right with God. Jesus nailed the old standard to the cross. **Sin still affects our fellowship with God but can never affect our relationship with God as we are in Christ!** Don't miss understand me we will still need to deal with our sin by agreeing with God about it but forgiveness towards us is the heart of our Father in Christ. That means that every one of my sins, mistakes, failures, unloving words and actions are forgiven. And every day I can start each day with a clean slate as Jesus has nailed all of those things to the cross and now we are free to go and sin no more.
5. Vs. 15 **The final thing we see is that we are forever freed from the power of these evil influences:** There is in this world "*rulers of darkness*" or as Paul calls them "*principalities and powers*". These are evil influences that continue to insert their evil into the world through attitudes and philosophies that are counter to God's Word and our renewed mind. And what Paul says is that they no longer can enforce their ways upon us. Oh they are still at work in the "*sons of disobedience*" and they can crop up in us when we yield our hearts and mind to them. Paul declares that when Jesus died he seized these powers by the throat, chained them,

and dragged them in triumph behind him, like a Roman general marching through the streets of Rome, his chained captives walking behind in total subjugation.

That is why John can say "Greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world."

There is no need, therefore, to give way to evil teaching or evil temptations, for we have a Power and a Person within who is superior to anything Satan can throw against us---the world, the flesh or the devil!

Paul is encouraging the Colossians to see that there is absolutely no need to believe the doctrines, the teachings or the rituals that he will next enunciate to them. There are two things every believer must continually look into if they are to have a joy filled life:

1. *We need to understand who we are in Christ*
2. *We need to continually discover what we already have in him*

Paul describes what has happened for us because in Jesus all the fullness of the Godhead dwells bodily. There is no need to be weak, faltering, or failing. We may rise up and be the men and women that God intended us to be.