

Christ Over All

A study in Colossians

Filled to the Full
Colossians 2:8-12
June 23, 2024

For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. - Colossians 2:9

I. PHILOSOPHY, LIES, OR CHRIST?

- If we have “received Christ Jesus as Lord” and are walking in him, we should see to it that we are not taken captive by false teachings (Col. 2:6; Matt. 7:15; Gal. 5:1).
- There are two primary ways that we can get side-tracked in the faith—Via human traditions and via elemental and worldly spirits (Vs. 8; Deut. 32:17; 1 Cor. 1:10-17, 2:2-5, 3:21-23, 10:20; Titus 3:9).
- Paul is apparently addressing some new and heretical views that began to infiltrate churches at the time of his writing (Col. 2:16-23; 1 John 2:18, 4:1-6).
- Remove the pursuit of Christ from our lives and we are left with a spiritual battle we cannot win (John 15:5; Rom. 9:16; 1 Pet. 5:8).

II. FULLNESS SPILLING OVER

- All the fullness of God resides in Jesus Christ (John 14:8-11; Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:19-20).
- As the Father fills the Son, so the Son fills believers. In him we died in his crucifixion, and in him we were raised to new life in his resurrection (Vss. 10-12; Gal. 2:20).
- The circumcision of Christ was his crucifixion, the “putting off the body of flesh.” We are united to his death, not his infant circumcision, and we are symbolically buried and raised with him in our baptism (Rom. 6:1-4).

III. STANDING IN TO OUR BAPTISM

1. We died. We are now a new life (2 Cor. 5:16-17; Col. 3:1-4).
2. We have been and will be raised to this new life. We are now called to “put off the body of flesh” (Vs. 11; Rom. 13:11-14).
3. We are no longer “captives.” We are free in Christ (John 15:15; Rom. 6:14; Gal. 5:1).
4. We are now equipped to say “no” to lies and deceit. Human traditions and elemental spirits have no authority over us any longer (Titus 1:10-16; 1 John 4:4).

KNOW: We are called to guard ourselves against deceitful teachings and die to the world and live for Christ. We must stand into our faith—into our death and resurrection—to accomplish this. We must fill ourselves with Jesus Christ, who is the very fullness of God.

DO: Put away “the flesh.” Stand into your faith through your baptism and say “no” to philosophies and elemental spirits.

Suggested Reading:

God in the Wasteland: The Reality of Truth in a World of Fading Dreams by David F. Wells (Available in the LifePoint Adult Library)

For Children:

Why Is There a Cross? By Kathleen Long Bostrom (Available in the LifePoint Children’s Library)

Next Week’s Text: Colossians 2:13-15

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read Colossians 2:8-12

1. What does Paul want to help Christians avoid in this text?
2. How do we get led astray? What can we do about it?
3. What does it mean that all of God’s fullness dwells in Jesus?
4. What does it mean that Jesus’ fullness fills us?
5. What is this “circumcision made without hands” that Paul speaks of? In what ways are we united to Jesus?
6. How does baptism represent our life in Jesus?
7. What steps are available to you to “walk in Jesus” and stand fast against philosophy and elemental spirits?