

Colossians 2:6-23

Questions

1. How would you finish the following sentence: "I would feel fulfilled if . . ."
2. Read Colossians 2:6-15. What does it mean to "receive Christ Jesus as Lord" (v. 6)?
3. What does the Apostle Paul command us to do after we have received Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior?
4. How do each of the images *rooted*, *built up*, *strengthened* and *overflowing* (v. 7) help us understand how we should continue to live in Christ?
5. In verse 8 we get the first real glimpse of the heresy being taught to the Colossians. What do we learn about it?
6. What are some things we can do in order to be sure that we will not be taken captive by the false teaching that is going on in our world today? Are you currently practicing any of these methods.
7. According to verse 8, how can we know right off the bat that the teachings Paul is writing against are wrong? What does this deceptive philosophy depend on?
8. How would Paul's two statements about fullness in Christ (vv. 9-10) protect the Colossians from those deceptive ideas?
9. In verses 11-15 Paul describes some of what "fullness in Christ" includes. Which of our basic needs did Jesus' death, burial and resurrection meet?
10. Why did Jesus have to take care of our sinful nature (v. 11) as well as our sins (v. 13)?
11. A *written code* (v. 14) was a signed confession, listing personal debts. What has Christ done with this certificate that was "against us" and "opposed to us"?
12. A *triumph* (v. 15) was "the victory parade given for conquering generals when they returned to Rome. In the victory celebration the defeated enemies, bound in chains, were dragged through the city. Then came the conquering general riding in a chariot, receiving the acclamation of the spectators who benefited from his victory."* Who are the "powers and authorities" (v. 15) Christ disarmed and triumphed over (see Eph 6:12)?
13. According to verse 14, what did Christ do in order to cancel the written code with its regulations and to forgive us of our sin?
14. Silently reread verses 9-15, inserting your name every time Paul says *you* or *us*. How do these facts affect your view of yourself?
15. What is a shadow? In order for there to be a shadow there must be what?
16. Read Colossians 2:16-23. What "shadows" were the Colossians adding to the "reality" they had found in Christ (vv. 16-17, 20-23)?

What "shadows" are we tempted to add today?

17. What is the appeal of such additions (vv. 18-19, 22-23)?

18. Why are these regulations useless (vv. 22-23)?

19. How does the following hymn help you grasp the implications of your fullness in Christ?

Complete in Thee! no work of mine
May take, dear Lord, the place of Thine;

Thy blood hath pardon bought for me,
And I am now complete in Thee.

Complete in Thee! no more shall sin,
Thy grace hath conquered, reign within;

Thy voice shall bid the tempter flee,
And I shall stand complete in Thee.

Complete in Thee! each want supplied,
And no good thing to me denied;

Since Thou my portion, Lord, wilt be,
I ask no more, complete in Thee.

Dear Saviour! when before thy bar
All tribes and tongues assembled are,

Among Thy chosen will I be,
At Thy right hand complete in Thee.

Cecil F. Alexander (1818-1895)