

Complete In Christ

A study in the book of Colossians

Lesson Three “Hidden Treasures”

Paul was in great conflict for the believers in Colossae and in Laodicea. The Laodicean church was located only a few miles northeast of Colossae and the city was a very prosperous trade center. Sitting in the lap of luxury, these churches somehow had allowed false teachings to creep in and spread.

As we look back at the first reports Paul and his company had heard concerning the Colossian church and their faith in Christ, we wonder what went wrong. How can such good beginnings come to such sorry ends?

Read Christ’s words concerning the church of Laodicea in Revelation 3:14-22.

- 1) What are some of your insights on what happened in this church?

Psalm 106:15 speaks of how God gave the Israelites the request they lusted after but **brought leanness to their soul.**

- 2) Have you ever had an experience where the very thing your heart desired, after you received it, you found, instead of satisfaction that it brought leanness, or an emptiness to your soul? What does this tell you about the **spiritual benefit** of the things we so often **long after?**

Read Colossians 2:1-10

- 3) In verse one, Paul tells the Colossians that he has great conflict for them and for the church in Laodicea, as well as the other churches who have not personally seen his face. What reasons might you find for Paul's particular concern for the churches he has not yet met face to face? Share what thoughts come to your mind.

- 4) In verse two, Paul shares his desire that the church would be encouraged, or comforted. In what ways does he describe this comfort that he desires for them? See also Ephesians 4:14-15 and then record your insights.

Continuing on in verse 2, Paul states, "...attaining to all riches of the **full assurance of understanding**, to the knowledge of the mystery of God."

The translation of this passage in the Amplified Bible says, "...that they may come to have all the abounding wealth and blessings of assured conviction of understanding, and that they may become **progressively more intimately acquainted** with and may **know more definitely and accurately and thoroughly** that mystic secret of God, which is Christ (the Anointed One).

- 5) Have you come into the riches of the full assurance, or the **assured conviction of understanding** in your knowledge of Christ? Are you **progressing** in that knowledge, becoming more intimately acquainted, definite, accurate and thorough? This is not a question you have to share with your group, but one we all need to think about and meditate on. Take a moment and ask the Lord to draw you into a deeper understanding in your knowledge of Him, that you may become more **intimately acquainted** with Christ, the Anointed One. Write out your prayer below.

a. Share what has **helped** and what has **hindered** you at times in your progression?

Verse 3 says, “In Whom are hidden all the treasures of **wisdom** and **knowledge**.” Have you ever stopped to really ponder this verse? **All** the treasures of **wisdom** and **knowledge** are hidden in Christ!

- 6) What is the difference between wisdom and knowledge? Look up the definition of each and share, **in your own words** how you would describe the difference.

Wisdom -

Knowledge -

- 7) Can you think of any need we have that is outside the sphere of wisdom and knowledge?

- 8) What conclusions does the light of this verse in Colossians 2:3 bring you to?

- 9) Paul wants them to grab hold of these truths he has stated in verse 3 and in verse 4 he gives the reason he wants them to be fully assured of this truth. Read verse 4 and record below the reason why this was so important for the church of Colossae, and for us today.

In verse 6 Paul tells the church, “As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so **walk in Him.**”

- 10)** How are we to walk in Christ? List the **four things** Paul states in verse 7 and then share what this means to you.

a. In Lesson One we spent some time on what it means to “walk worthy” of our relationship with Christ. As a reminder, record below the admonition Paul gave us in Colossians 1:10.

b. Look up these other Scriptures and **record the insights** they give of what it means to “walk worthy.” Ephesians 4:1; 1 Thessalonians 2:4-13; Revelation 3:1-4.

In verse 8, Paul warns them to “Beware lest anyone cheat (spoil) you...”

- 11)** How is our faith **spoiled**? What things does Paul warn against in verse 8?

a. Look up these other Scriptures and record the things we are told to “beware” of concerning our faith. Luke 12:15; Philippians 3:2-3; 2 Peter 3:15-17.

12) Are there some areas where you have been, or are being, influenced by the world's ideas and perspectives that have distracted you from Christ? We all struggle with the influences of the world that daily pull at us. Share your thoughts and personal struggles below.

13) In verse 10 Paul declares that we are **complete in Christ** Who is the Head of all principality and power. What kinds of things have you noticed people trying to "add" to their faith in Christ? List below some of the things that might come to your mind.

Webster's Dictionary defines **complete** as: Filled up; with no part lacking; perfectly equipped; fully realized; thorough; to bring to entirety or perfection.

The Phillip's Translation says, "...moreover, **your own completeness is realized in Him**, Who is the ruler over all authorities and the Supreme Head over all powers."

What a beautiful picture we see here of the sanctifying work of the Spirit within us and of our **absolute sufficiency in Christ**. There is nothing we lack that He cannot fill. The entirety of perfection is fully realized in Him. There is **no part missing; nothing can be added**. Not only is He all-sufficient, but He is also all-supreme over **every** principality, over **all** authority and **all** power.

14) Is there a burden or concern you have right now that you need to release to the Lover of your soul, who is the Supreme Head over all His creation, and in Whom you are **complete**? Take a few minutes to stop and meditate on this verse, then look up the following Scriptures that help deepen that seed of truth in your heart: Psalm 84:11; Jeremiah 32:17 & 27; Isaiah 50:2; Isaiah 59:1; Romans 11:33-36. Use a separate sheet of paper to jot down those things the Lord highlights to you from these verses.

Now, lay down your burden before the Lord, asking Him to take it from you and work out His perfect will in the situation.

- 15) Let's end this lesson by lifting up to the Lord in prayer whatever might be distracting us or dimming our vision of Christ, acknowledging His authority over **every condition** and **detail** in our lives, and His ability to **fill up** every area of **our lack**. You can write your prayer below and if you feel comfortable, share your prayer with your group.

- 16) What ministered to your heart most as you went through Lesson Three?