

# Complete In Christ

A study in the book of Colossians

## Lesson Two

### “Altogether Adequate”

The Colossian church, like many churches today, had been infiltrated with those teaching heretical doctrines and false misconceptions about Christ. Paul refutes these by exalting Christ as the Fulness of the Godhead and His complete adequacy for the believer against the empty deception of the world’s human philosophy. We need not look for some kind of “secret knowledge” that will enlighten us to “real truth.” The **only place** we ever need to look is to **JESUS**.

Read Colossians 1:15 – 29

- 1) Look carefully at verses 15-20. There are **seven** (the number of completeness in Scripture) **superiorities of Christ** that are expressed in these verses. See if you can find them and list them here.

“...and by Him all things consist.” (Verse 17)

The New Living Translation says, “He existed before anything else, and He holds all creation together.” The Philips Translation expresses that He is, “...the upholding principle of the whole scheme of creation.”

- 2) Examine Hebrews 1:3 for a greater insight into the power of Christ that upholds and sustains all things. What is it?
- 3) When we feel that things are falling apart we need to remember to Whom we belong. What are the areas you find most difficult to trust to the power of Jesus? Does meditating on these verses help your perspective? Share your thoughts.

“And He is the Head of the body, the church, Who is the Beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.” (Verse 18)

- 4) Look up and record the definition of **preeminent**.
  - a. Is He **preeminent** in all things in your life? What are the areas you might be holding back that you need to give Him the preeminence in?

“For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell.” (Verse 19)

All the fullness of the Godhead dwells in Christ. All **superiority**, all **power**, all the **attributes** and **totality of God!**

- 5) Where are some of the places you are first tempted to look to for help when you're in need? Be honest.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 6) Read Psalm 33. Jot down the verses that stand out to you most and share with the group what most ministers to your heart as you read through this psalm.

“And you, who were once **alienated** and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now has He **reconciled**.” (Verse 21)

- 7) Look up the definitions of both **alienated** and **reconciled**.

**Alienated:**

**Reconciled:**

- 8) Paul says we were once enemies against God in our minds. In what ways has your mind-set and thought life changed since you came to Christ?
- 9) Read Colossians 1:22 & 23 carefully. What do you think Paul is really saying here? Is he saying our salvation is conditional and insecure? For more insight see Romans 8:1-11; 2 Corinthians 13:5 & 2 Peter 1:10) Share your thoughts.

“I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ...” (Verse 24)

The NIV Study Bible gives good insight into this verse stating that Paul, “does not mean that there was a deficiency in the atoning sacrifice of Christ. Rather, it means that Paul suffered afflictions because he was preaching the good news of Christ’s atonement. Christ suffered on the cross to atone for sin, and Paul filled up Christ’s afflictions by experiencing the added sufferings necessary to carry this good news to a lost world.”

- 10) What are some of the afflictions you may have faced in sharing the good news of the Gospel?
- 11) What exactly is the mystery Paul speaks of in verses 26 & 27? (See verse 27b)

- a. What are some of the other mysteries in Scripture that Paul refers to concerning Christ? Look up Romans 11:25; 1 Corinthians 15:1; Ephesians 3:6; Ephesians 5:31-32; Colossians 2:2-3; 1 Timothy 3:16 and record your findings.

“...**warning** every man and **teaching** every man...” (Verse 28)

Barnes commentary states that this is not necessarily a warning of danger, as we would think of it, but an admonishing by Paul of all the claims of the Gospel to the reader’s attention. He further states that the Greek word used here is interchangeable with the word “admonish” and means to “put in mind; to admonish; to exhort.”

- 12) What specifically do you think the **warning**, or **admonishment** is that Paul preached? (For additional insight look up some other warnings and admonishments given to us in 1 Thessalonians 5:14; Titus 2:4; Hebrews 3:13; 1 Peter 2:11 & 1 John 2:26)

- a. What is the **teaching**? (See 1 Corinthians 4:17; 2 Timothy 2:24-25; 2 Timothy 3:16-17)

“To this end I also labor; striving according to His working which works in me mightily.”  
(Verse 29)

Paul concludes this chapter with what appears to be a paradox in the Christian faith.....**I labor** according to **His working**. We are only able to do what Christ **enables us** to do by **His power**.

As we strive to walk worthy we need to remember that our adequacy is in **Christ alone!**

- 13) What ministered most to your heart as you went through this second lesson of our study?

“...He, I know, is able to carry out His will, and His will is mine. It makes no matter where He places me; or how. That is rather for Him to consider than for me; for in the easiest position He must give me His grace; and in the most difficult His grace is sufficient. It little matters to my servant whether I send him to buy a few cash worth of things, or the most expensive articles. In either case he looks to me for the money and brings me his purchases. So, if God should place me in serious perplexity, must He not give me much guidance; in positions of great difficulty, much grace; in circumstances of great pressure and trial, much strength? No fear that His resources will prove unequal to the emergency! And His resources are mine, for He is mine; and is with me and dwells in me.”

Hudson Taylor