

## Fully Embracing Christ Colossians 2:6-15

**Objective:** Encourage people to genuinely and fully embrace life in Christ.

**Reading:** Colossians 2:6-7.

### Introduction:

1. Sometimes people seem to be satisfied with “just a little Jesus”.
2. I want to submit that if you are not fully embracing Christ, if you are not genuinely walking in Him wholeheartedly, you are not only in danger of falling away or being deceived or beguiled by spiritual and worldly forces, but you are just flat missing out on most of the blessing that comes from being in Christ.

### We need to make sure we are genuinely walking in Christ. (WHY?)

Because of what we have in Christ and only in Christ. In this section, Paul relates a number of terms and spiritual concepts that depict what Satan is trying to steal, what so much of the world would deceive us out of, what is so precious and vital and is ours in Christ and only in Christ. Let's take a look at some of the treasures that are ours walking “in Christ”;

*In Christ is*

#### I. The “fullness of deity”.

##### A. The Presence of God.

1. Colossians 2:9, **“For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form,”**
2. In a form we can relate to.
3. Relationship, fellowship with God - the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
4. Do you seek your Creator? Do you want to know God! Here is where that relationship is revealed and found. Don't let human philosophies and deceptions lead you away from the truth about God found in Christ.
  - a. If they will teach you things that are unrighteous and ungodly and call them blessed you will have a wrong concept of the nature of God.
  - b. If you endorse things that are reprehensible to God, you threaten to lose relationship with Him.

##### B. You don't have this relationship if you wander off.

1. If you involve yourself in vain deceptions.
2. Colossians 2:8, **“See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.”**
3. Christ is where it is – not in human philosophies. Cf. some human philosophies;
  - a. There is freedom in having all kinds of aberrant sex, and it is okay now that we have birth control or now that we are “enlightened”. Here is a wrong idea from man, that is empty deception leading away from relationship with God Who is Holy and Pure!
  - b. *“Oh, come on, God doesn't care about ...”*
  - c. *“If God requires us to be that holy, He is going to be awful lonely ...”*
4. Human reasoning does not always lead to god-likeness. It often rationalizes around it. That is partly why God sent the Son – to show us!
  - a. John 1:18, **“No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.”**
  - b. Here is the Power and the Presence of God-with-us!

*In Christ we are*

#### II. Made complete.

##### A. What more could you want or desire?

1. Colossians 2:3, **“...in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”**
2. What could you possibly be lacking if God is with you? If the Creator of the Universe is with you?
3. What could you possibly need or even desire that He cannot supply? He who is able to do abundantly more than we can ask or even imagine.
4. He is able to empower you.
  - a. Convict you of sin. Strengthen you to overcome and provide you a way out.

- b. Help you understand. Lead you into all truth. To do His mighty works in and through you.
- 5. In the mysterious relationship between the Word incarnate to the written word, we see the concept in 2 Timothy 3:16-17, ***“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; <sup>17</sup>so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”*** Nothing lacking. Complete.

B. This true knowledge leads to life and godliness.

- 1. 2 Peter 1:2-3, ***“Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; <sup>3</sup>seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.”***
- 2. Empowering and enabling us to learn, to know, to develop and grow. To be transformed to life and godliness.

*In Christ we have*

### **III. Circumcision.** (Who wants that? What is that?)

A. The mark of belonging to God.

- 1. For the Jews, this was distinctive mark of belonging to God. A cutting away of flesh performed on the 8<sup>th</sup> day, unless you came to God later on, then performed perhaps even on an adult as Paul did to Timothy to enable him to relate to Jews.
- 2. This is a little different. This is what that Old Testament circumcision pointed to and symbolized; a removal of sinful flesh
- 3. Here is an operation performed by God when you come to Him through Christ. Colossians 2:11, ***“...and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ;”***
- 4. Here is a “mark” of your belonging to God – being one of His people! Has to do with a denial of the sinful pull of the flesh. A determination to live by the Spirit rather than the flesh!
- 5. Romans 8:13, ***“...for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.”*** A determination to not respond to the fleshly pull and temptations to sin.

B. A reference to your baptism.

- 1. Colossians 2:12-14, ***“...having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. <sup>13</sup>When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, <sup>14</sup>having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.”***
- 2. Dead to the flesh. Dead to sin. Alive to God. Alive to righteousness. Alive to the Spirit.
- 3. Raised up = resurrection; a coming up out of that watery grave as a new creature. The old man has died and it is now Christ living in me! I now have life in the Spirit.
- 4. Romans 8 stuff! Romans 8:1, ***“Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”***

C. Relates to forgiveness

- 1. Removal of sin. A cutting away of that which defiles.
- 2. Colossians 2:13b-14, ***“...having forgiven us all our transgressions, <sup>14</sup>having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.”***
- 3. This is in Christ! Not so much something you did one time, but who and what you are – defined by the way you walk through life now.

*In Christ we have*

### **IV. Freedom and victory.**

A. Regarding sin.

1. Released from it. Victory over it. It is erased, cancelled out. Christ died for my sins. He paid the price that I owed!
2. 1 Corinthians 15:56-57, ***“The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; <sup>57</sup>but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”***

#### B. Regarding “law”.

1. “Law” is a governing principle. No one could ever keep all that OT law anyhow. It only made sinfulness more blatantly obvious.
2. In Christ we are freed from that governing principle. We don’t have to worry about minute do’s and don’ts. We don’t have to worry about legal stipulations if we are truly governed by Christ and live “in Him”. We have life in His Spirit! If that is our governing principle, then we are children of God, co-inheritors, and free!
3. We now live by the law of the spirit, by the law of freedom. The law of love. The law of Christ!

#### C. Regarding spiritual powers.

1. Are you worried about demons and other unseen forces?
  - a. Maybe things that go “bump” in the dark?
  - b. Superstitions. The number 13 is “bad luck”? Where does that come from?
2. Christ now has all authority in heaven and on earth. Over things seen and things unseen!
3. Colossians 2:15, ***“When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.”***
4. Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.” All of which may be more powerful than us simple humans, but they cannot stand against Christ, and you also are free from them if you are genuinely “in Christ”.

#### D. Regarding human opinion.

1. Colossians 2:16, ***“Therefore no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day—”***
2. Colossians 2:21-23, ***“Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!” <sup>22</sup>(which all refer to things destined to perish with use)—in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men? <sup>23</sup>These are matters which have, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self-abasement and severe treatment of the body, but are of no value against fleshly indulgence.”***
3. Human originated religious dogma. People’s expectations of you.
  - a. Commandments and ideas that never originated with God and have nothing really to do with godliness!
  - b. Sinful to eat meat or other foods on certain days? Where does that come from?
  - c. Wearing ashes on your forehead on such and such a day - Where does that come from?
  - d. People and groups have many ideas that have the appearance of generating wisdom and godliness but really do not produce transformation of the soul.
4. Answer to Christ! Live “in Christ” – He is the One that gets you life and salvation!

#### So What?

The concern of the passage, and my concern today, is that there are folks who “sort of” follow Christ. To follow Christ “sort of” is not the way you were taught. (shouldn’t have been). *Should have been taught to make Christ the Lord of your life* – to be real in your devotion to Him. To belong to Him half-heartedly or “sort-of” or to present an image of belonging to Him when you are really not doing so entirely and from the heart is a dangerous thing. Safety, life, godly direction lie in *genuinely* living in Christ. *Make sure you are walking “in Christ”.*

#### Closing Prayer:

**Fully Embracing Christ**  
**Colossians 2:6-15**

**Reading:** Colossians 2:6-7.

**We need to make sure we are genuinely walking in Christ.**

Some of the treasures that are ours walking “in Christ”;

**I. The “fullness of deity”.**

A. The Presence of God.

Colossians 2:9

B. You don’t have this relationship if you wander off.

Colossians 2:8 John 1:18

**II. Made complete.**

A. What more could you want or desire?

Colossians 2:3 2 Timothy 3:16-17

B. This true knowledge leads to life and godliness.

2 Peter 1:2-3

**III. Circumcision.**

A. The mark of belonging to God.

Colossians 2:11 Romans 8:13

B. A reference to your baptism.

Colossians 2:12-14 Romans 8:1

C. Relates to forgiveness

Colossians 2:13b-14

**IV. Freedom and victory.**

A. Regarding sin.

1 Corinthians 15:56-57

B. Regarding “law”.

C. Regarding spiritual powers.

Colossians 2:15

D. Regarding human opinion.

Colossians 2:16 Colossians 2:21-23

**So What?**

Make sure you are walking “in Christ”.