

# COLOSSIANS

Life in our supreme & sufficient Savior

## Colossians – Life in our Supreme & Sufficient Savior

### Review of Background

- Occasion: False teachers have promised ritual ways to experience God’s presence and blessing (mysticism/legalism). Paul’s correction in the letter is that those who have trusted in Jesus can already experience the fullness of God’s presence through what has been provided already for the believer in Jesus.
- Theme verse: “For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.” (Colossians 2:9-10)
- Theme of the Class: Life in our Supreme & Sufficient Savior

### Class Outline

- Part 1: The Preeminence of Christ in Christian Thinking (1-3:4)
- Part 2: The Preeminence of Christ in Christian Living (3:5-4:6)

### Lesson 6 – Colossians 2:8-15

#### Live the fullness of life in Jesus!

1. Find fullness in Jesus (2:8-10).
  - a. Beware of empty thinking (8).

- b. Know the fullness of Jesus (9).
  - c. Enjoy the fullness of Jesus (10).
2. Remember the fullness of life in Jesus (2:11-15).
- a. In Jesus, we are freed from the power of sin (11).
  - b. In Jesus, we are raised in spiritual life (12-13a).
  - c. In Jesus, we are forgiven of our sins (13b-14).
  - d. In Jesus, we are triumphant over the opposition (15).

## **Application**

Beware of empty thinking – We must beware of empty philosophy. See to it that we are not carried away by a false way of thinking. This is not against all philosophy or thinking, but rather against all of which Christ is not the source or substance. If it draws us away from Christ, or even hints that there may be something more we need to fully please God, or find a full life, then it is deceptive, empty, and not according to Christ! As you face the stuff of life, don't be tempted to look elsewhere. Beware of the empty ways of thinking that could draw you away:

- Legalism – If I act a certain way, I'll feel better about my relationship with God. If I live this way, maybe He won't allow any bad things to happen in my life.
- Mysticism – I'll ask God to heal my cancer, but can it really hurt to pray to St. Peregrine, the patron saint of cancer healing? I'll

ask God to calm my grief over a lost loved one, but maybe it would help to see if I can communicate with them somehow...

Know the fullness of Jesus – We must dwell on His fullness, and taste his fullness. Remember Who He is and we will be lest tempted to be draw away.

Enjoy the fullness of Jesus – We must enjoy the reality of our fullness in Christ! Worship and praise Him for it! If we ever *feel* like we need more, then we need more of Him! Jesus is more than enough for all of our needs!!!

- Financial Needs – When we face financial burden, we don't need to worry or stress. We go to Him in prayer, recognizing that all financial provision ultimately comes from Him, and He's promised to provide. Then we move forward in obedience (making wise choices, working etc.) and watch for his provision.
- Health Needs – He knows our frame, He knows our bodies, He knows our pain. We go to Him for help, trusting Him. Then we walk forward in obedience with His provision for help. The wisdom of doctors and others to help care for our needs. But we need not be selfish, we need not despair, we never need to disobey because He is our fullness.
- Emotional needs – Through the ups and downs of life, I can rest in the fullness I find in Jesus Christ. No matter how I feel, I know He is there. No matter how I feel, I know He loves me. No matter my feelings, I have hope, joy, and comfort in Him. I have emotional fullness in Jesus Christ. So I walk forward in faith, believing His provision for me.
- Spiritual Needs – I have fullness in Him! I need nothing apart from Him or outside of Him. He meets every spiritual need that I have! So, if something doesn't seem right, I go to Him. If there's sin, I confess it and restore fellowship. If I feel lost, I look to His perfect wisdom. If I feel guilty, I look to His perfect forgiveness.

If I feel hopeless, I look to His victory over sin and death. If I feel worthless, I look to His perfect love for me. Every spiritual need is met in and through the Lord Jesus Christ.

In Jesus, we are freed from the power of sin – Before we trusted in Christ, we were slaves to our sin natures. We had no choice. We see unbelieving people do “good things.” But the reality is that “all our righteousnesses are filthy rags” because deep down we are always functioning for ourselves. Not until we are freed from slavery to sin can we genuinely obey the Lord! What a joy to know that we no longer *have* to sin. It is still a temptation, but we’ve been set free from its power.

In Jesus, we are raised in spiritual life – We have been given Spiritual life by faith in God, through the resurrection of Christ from the dead! This is compelling! Not only are we no longer slaves to sin, but now we can live for righteousness! And, He did this for us when we were dead in our sins. We have the joy of proclaiming this wonderful change by being baptized! It is a public testimony to our conversion. We identify with Christ’s death/burial and resurrection – and we “walk in new life.”

In Jesus, we are forgiven of our sins – All our sins are forgiven! This is an incredible benefit of salvation. All we’ve ever done, and all we will ever do, has been PAID IN FULL by the blood of Jesus Christ. Rejoice that your sins are forgiven! You can confess and rejoice when you sin, rather than being depressed. You can forgive others! You can forgive yourself. You don’t have to bear guilt and condemnation.

In Jesus, we are triumphant over the opposition – As a part of this fullness of life in Christ, He has triumphed over the opposition, and we are with Him! We need not fear Satan and his demons. We respect their power, but we do not fear. Our Savior Jesus Christ has stripped them of their authority and dignity, and He has triumphed over them!