

Approximately Expository 35 minutes



“Complete in Christ”

Colossians Chapter 2 (NIV)

Opening Prayer:

Father God, we come before You today in the mighty name of Jesus. We thank You for Your Word that is living, powerful, and sharper than any double-edged sword. Lord, open our hearts. Remove distractions. Speak clearly. Strengthen our faith. Guard us from deception. And remind us that in Christ, we are complete. If there is anyone listening who does not know You today, please draw them by Your Spirit. We ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Historical Setting:

The Apostle Paul wrote this letter while imprisoned in Rome around A.D. 60-62. He had never personally visited the church at Colossae. The church was likely planted by Epaphras 🖐️ **eh-PAF-ruhs or (bed-half-rus)**, one of Paul's co-workers.

Colossae was located in modern-day Turkey, near Laodicea 🖐️ **Lay-ah-duh-SEE-uh** and Hierapolis 🖐️ **high-AIR-ap-uh-liss**. It was a crossroads city full of trade, philosophy, religion, and spiritual ideas. Greek philosophy influenced the culture. Jewish legalism influenced the religious climate. Mysticism 🖐️ **MISS-tuh-siz-um** and early forms of what would later be called Gnosticism 🖐️ **NOS-tuh-siz-um** were creeping in.

False teachers were saying:

- . Jesus is good but not enough.

- . You need secret knowledge.
- . You need special experiences.
- . You need strict rules.
- . You need additional spiritual steps.

Does this Sound familiar in todays culture?

Paul writes Colossians chapter 2 to say loudly and clearly:

👉 **Jesus is enough.**

1. A Pastor's Heart (Colossians 2:1-5):

Paul begins:

Colossians 2:1 (NIV) ***"I want you to know how hard I am contending for you and for those at Laodicea 👉 Lay-ah-duh-SEE-uh, and for all who have not met me personally."***

Even from prison, Paul is fighting spiritually for them.

He says his goal is:

Colossians 2:2 (NIV) **“My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ,**

Notice three things:

1. Encouraged hearts
2. United love
3. Complete understanding

And then he makes a powerful statement:

Colossians 2:3 (NIV) **“In whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”**

All.

Not some.

Not partial.

Not upgraded later.

ALL wisdom and knowledge are in Christ.

The false teachers were offering “**deeper wisdom.**” Paul says, “**If you have Christ, you already have the treasure chest.**”

Verse 4:

Colossians 2:4 (NIV) “I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments.”

👉 Church, deception rarely sounds evil. It sounds spiritual.

Paul ends this section:

Colossians 2:6 (NIV) “So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him.”

How did you receive Him?

👉 By grace. Through faith.

So how do you continue?

👉 The same way.

He adds:

Colossians 2:7 (NIV) **“Rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.”**

- Rooted - like a tree.
- Built up - like a building.
- Strengthened - like a soldier.
- Overflowing - like a river.

👉 That's maturity.

2. Beware of Empty Philosophy (Colossians 2:8-10):

Verse 8 is critical:

Colossians 2:8 (NIV) **“See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow**

and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.”

That phrase **“takes you captive”** means to carry off as plunder.

- Philosophy isn't the problem.
- Philosophy without Christ included is the problem.

At this point Paul gives one of the most important statements in the entire Bible about the identity and greatness of Jesus Christ.

Colossians 2:9 (NIV) **“For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form.”**

👉 Jesus is not partly God, He is not a lesser god, and He is not just a spiritual being that came from God...Jesus is fully God.

He is fully God in human flesh.

And then comes the explosion:

Colossians 2:10(NIV)¹⁰ **and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority.**

....in Christ you have been brought to fullness....(vs10)

- Complete.
- Filled.
- Lacking nothing spiritually.

If Jesus is fully God...
And you are in Him...

👉 Then you are spiritually complete.

That destroys the false teacher's entire system.

3. Your Old Life Was Cut Away (Colossians 2:11-15)

Paul now explains what happened at salvation.

Colossians 2:11(NIV)¹¹ In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ,

He is speaking spiritually.

The old sinful nature was cut away.

Then verse 12:

Colossians 2:12(NIV)¹² having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

- Buried.
- Raised.
- New life.

Then Paul describes our condition before Christ:

Colossians 2:13(NIV) ¹³ When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins,

👉 Dead.

Not sick.

Not struggling.

👉 Dead.

But then comes grace:

“....God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins.”

All.
Not most.
Not the small ones.

👉 ALL.

Then one of the most powerful images in Scripture:

Colossians 2:14(NIV) ¹⁴ having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross.

Imagine a debt ledger.
Every sin recorded.
Every failure listed.

Jesus took it.
Nailed it to the cross.

👉 Paid in full.

And then verse 15:

Colossians 2:15(NIV) ¹⁵ And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

The cross looked like defeat.

It was victory.

Satan thought he won.

👉 Jesus disarmed him.

4. Don't Go Back to Legalism (Colossians 2:16-19)

Paul now addresses religious legalism.

Colossians 2:16(NIV) ¹⁶ Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day.

- Dietary laws.
- Holy days.
- Sabbaths.

He says:

Colossians 2:17(NIV)¹⁷ *These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.*

The Old Testament ceremonies were shadows.

Jesus is the substance.

👉 If you have the reality, why go back to the shadow?

Then he warns about false humility and angel worship.

- Mystical experiences.
- Visions.
- Teaching spirituality belonged only to a special inner circle.

He says these people have:

Colossians 2:19(NIV) ¹⁹ ***They have lost connection with the head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow.***

When you disconnect from Christ, you lose life.

👉 Stay connected to the Head.

5. Dead to Rules, Alive in Christ (Colossians 2:20-23)

Colossians 2:20(NIV) ²⁰ ***Since you died with Christ to the elemental spiritual forces of this world, why, as though you still belonged to the world, do you submit to its rules:***

“Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!”

Man-made religions thrives on rules.

Paul says these regulations:

Colossians 2:23(NIV)²³ ***Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.***

Rules cannot change the heart.

👉 Only Jesus can.

- Religion says, “Behave.”
- Jesus says, “**Be born again.**”
- Religion tries to change your behavior.
- Christ changes **your very nature.**

6. Invitation: Are You Complete in Christ?

Maybe someone listening feels:

- . Incomplete
- . Guilty

- Spiritually empty
- Burdened by sin
- Trapped in religion
- Searching for more

👉 **Hear this clearly:**

In Christ, you are complete.

👉 But you must be in Christ.

Paul said:

“...God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins.” Col (2:13)

Have you been made alive?

- Jesus is fully God.
- He died for your sins.
- He rose again.
- He paid your debt.
- He triumphed over darkness.

But salvation is received by **faith**.

- Not church attendance.

- Not good works.
- Not religion.

Faith in Jesus Christ.

If you have never been born again, today this very moment, can be your time.

Jesus said you must be born again.

- You come as you are.
- You repent turn from sin.
- You believe.
- You surrender.

Right now, if that is you, pray from your heart by faith:

“Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner. I believe You died for me. I believe You rose again. Forgive me. Make me alive. Be my Lord. I surrender my life to You. Fill me with Your Spirit. I trust You alone. Amen.”

If you prayed that sincerely, the Bible says you have been made alive with Christ.

You are now part of God's Family!!!

Conclusion: Stay Rooted

Church, Colossians 2 tells us:

- . Christ is fully God.
- . We are complete in Him.
- . Our debt is canceled.
- . The enemy is defeated.
- . Religion cannot save.
- . Rules cannot transform.
- . Jesus is enough.

Stay rooted.

Stay built up.

Stay connected to the Head.

Overflow with thankfulness.

You don't need more than Christ.

 **You need more of Christ.**

Closing Prayer:

Father God, thank You for Jesus. Thank You that in Him we are complete. Thank You that our debt is canceled and our sins are forgiven. Guard us from deception. Protect us from legalism. Keep us rooted and grounded in Christ. Let us proclaim that Jesus is enough to our community. And if anyone today has trusted You for the first time, seal them by Your Spirit and grow them strong. We ask it all in Jesus' mighty name. Amen.



Matthew 28:19-20