

Love Letters

Week 13: Colossians 2

In Christ's Fullness ~

Read Colossians 2

1. What do vs 1–2 help you to discern about Paul's inner conflict for the Colossian believers? Why would it make a difference to see Paul face to face?
2. How could they best avoid being deceived? (vs 2)
3. Paul understood that possessing a correct understanding about Christ was the best defensive weapon. What simple truth was sufficient? (vs 3)
4. Though not present with these believers, Paul rejoiced to hear of the steadfastness of their faith. What was key to their spiritual growth? (vs 6–7)
5. Next there is a straightforward warning against anything that is anti-Christ; what things does Paul mention to watch out for? (vs 8)
6. Driving home the point that believers ought not to look to the world for answers or satisfaction in life, where does Paul say they are to look?
 - a. Vs 9:
 - b. Vs 10: (Personalize this verse by inserting your name where you see the pronoun "I".)

Forgiven in Christ ~

Reread Colossians 2:11–15

1. State the spiritual significance of the following:
 - a. Circumcision made without hands: (See Deuteronomy 30:6 & Romans 2:29.)
 - b. Buried with Him in baptism: (See Romans 6:1–7 for help: "dead to sin, alive to God.")
2. In your own words, state the fullness of your salvation as Paul explains it in vs 13– 15.
 - a. Jesus Christ not only paid the price for sin; He won the victory over the powers of evil. How did He do it?

Freedom in Christ ~

Reread Colossians 2:16–23

We are beginning to understand & appreciate that as believers we are complete in Christ. Paul wants us to know that we are also free in Christ—free from sin's power, free to live lives that are pleasing to God.

1. From what attitude in others does Paul say the believer is free? (vs 16–17)
2. What are the other areas being targeted for criticism? (Look at these verses in more than one translation.)
 - a. Vs 18:
 - b. Vs 19:
 - c. What do you think happens when a believer loses connection with the Head?
3. What is wrong with the perspective found in vs 20–23?
 - a. Can you think of some everyday examples of this kind of false humility?

Steadfast in Christ ~

Paul strongly exhorted them to remember the foundation of their faith: they had not merely received the teachings & doctrines about Christ, rather they had received Christ Himself! Take a closer look at vs 6–7.

Rooted in Christ . . .

Carefully read Psalm 1:1–3 & consider whether or not you have a tendency to walk, stand or sit for prolonged periods of time in the presence of ungodliness? Are you compromising your Christian walk in order to hang out with people you know you shouldn't? Do you find yourself in situations where you don't belong? On a scale of 1–10 (10 being best), how would you rate the frequency of being in God's Word: daily, weekly, occasionally, only in desperate times? How much depth is there to your spiritual roots? How much fruit is in evidence to others?

Built up in Him & Established . . .

Not only are Christians grounded firmly like trees of God's planting, we are also likened to a building that has a solid foundation in Christ. Don't be inclined to take shortcuts or cut corners; make your building as sure as your foundation. Look at 2 Peter 1:2–8 in terms of building materials. Are you lacking in any of these virtues?

Abounding with Thanksgiving . . .

Overflowing should be the word that describes you when you can answer in the affirmative to being rooted & built up in Christ. As God lays the foundation & you build, one precept upon another, you will become a geyser overflowing with thanksgiving for all God has done! Your gratitude will be the supernatural outflow of a heart in passionate pursuit of a loving, gracious & merciful heavenly Father who relentlessly pursued you! Jesus said, "The water I give will be an artesian spring within, gushing fountains of endless life" (John 4:14). When you're in love there is never a lack; you need only ask, "More please!" How thankful are you to be completely His?

In Touch with Jesus ~

1. **LISTEN:** In what way did the Lord Jesus meet you in His Word this week? Be specific.
2. **LEARN:** How can you apply this understanding to your daily Christian walk?
3. **LIVE:** What step of obedience will you purpose to take in our walk of faith this week?