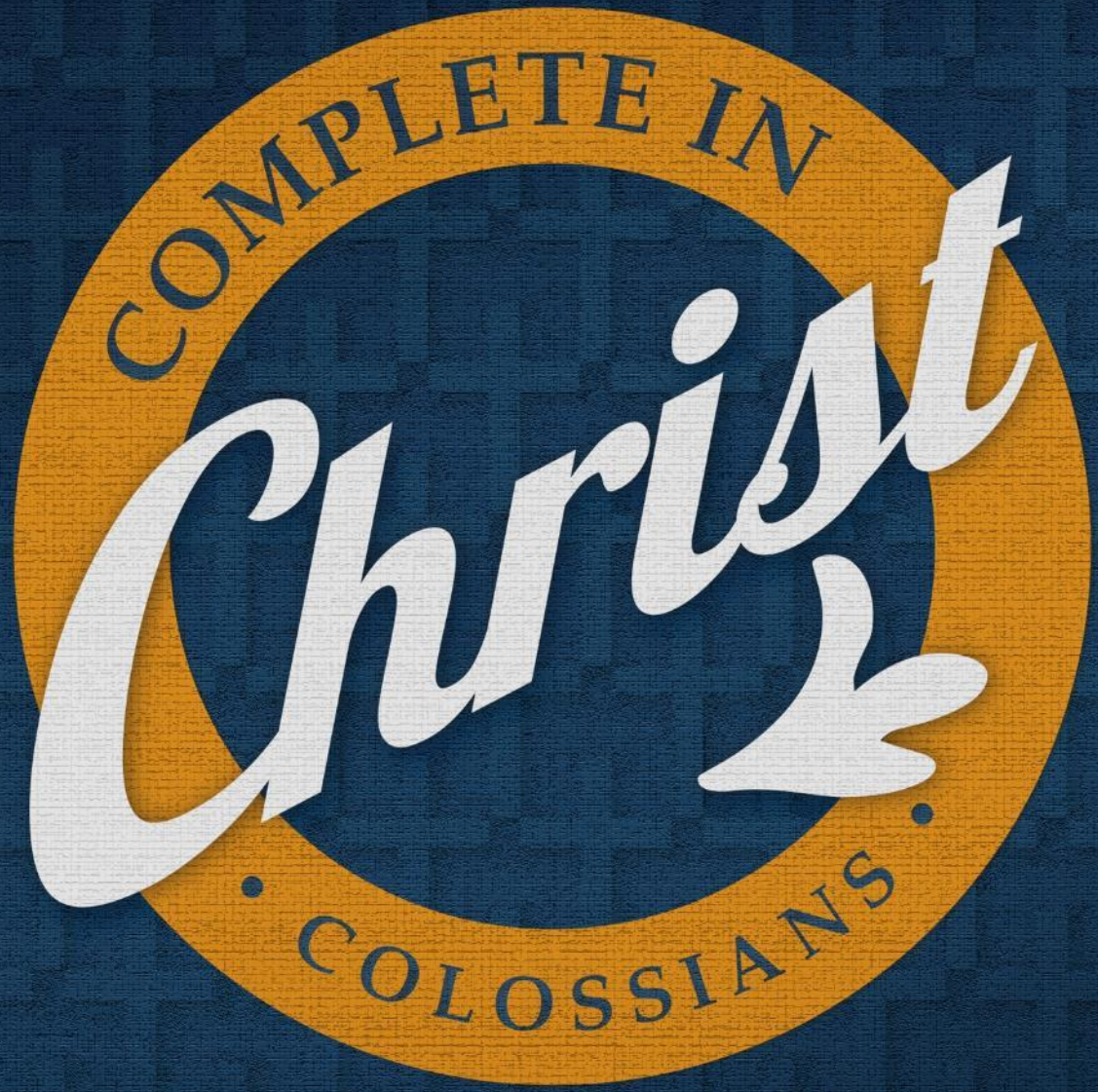
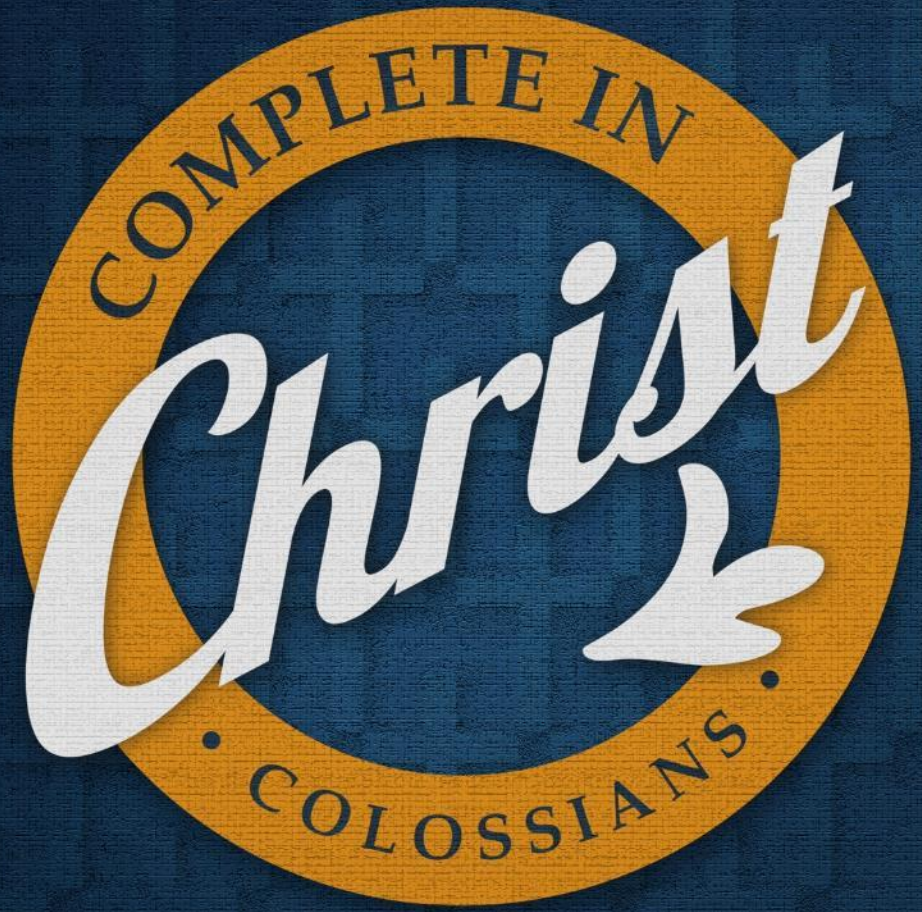

COMPLETE IN
Christ
COLOSSIANS



Complete in Christ, therefore reject Empty Philosophy

Colossians 2:8-10

Hook

Colossians 2:8-10

- Here's the reason we need to dig into this Passage of Scripture

Confusion

Book

Colossians 2:8-10 NASB

- 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. For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority;

Book

Colossians 2:8-10 The Message

- *"Watch out for people who try to dazzle you with big words and intellectual double-talk. They want to drag you off into endless arguments that never amount to anything. They spread their ideas through the empty traditions of human beings and the empty superstitions of spirit beings. But that's not the way of Christ. Everything of God gets expressed in him, so you can see and hear him clearly. You don't need a telescope, a microscope, or a horoscope to realize the fullness of Christ, and the emptiness of the universe without him. When you come to him, that fullness comes together for you, too. His power extends over everything."*

Look into Colossians 2:8-10

The Context & the Content

- <u>The Context:</u>
- Theme of Epistle: The supremacy of Christ

Chapter 1:	The Doctrine:	The Deeper Life in Christ.
	The Exaltation of Christ	
Chapter 2:	The Controversy:	The Higher Life in Christ.
	The Exaltation of Christianity	
Chapter 3:	The Spiritual:	The Inner Life in Christ.
	The Exaltation of Committed Christians	
Chapter 4:	The Practical:	The Outer Life in Christ.
	The Exaltation of Fellow Christians	



Look into Colossians 2:8-10
The Context & the Content

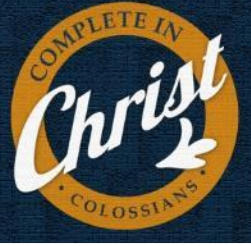
- The Content:
- **Chapter 2: The Controversy:**

The Higher Life in Christ.

The Exaltation of Christianity

Chapter 2: The Controversy:

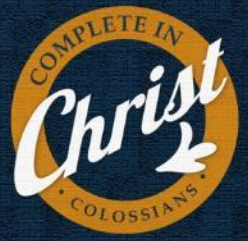
A.	The Controversy Introduced and Concluded			2:1-3, 23
B.	Gnosticism	vs.	The Firmness of Faith	2:4-7
C.	Emptiness of Philosophies	vs.	Fullness in Christ	2:8-10
D.	Legalism	vs.	A Fulfilled Judgment	2:11-17
E.	Mysticism of the Carnal Mind	vs.	Union With the Head	2:18-19
F.	Present Asceticism	vs.	Past Death	2:20-23



2:8-10 The Emptiness of Philosophies vs. Fullness in Christ

I. THE CONTRAST 2:8-10

The Confusion - Deception		The Completeness – Christ
Philosophies	vs. "In Him"	- Christ
Empty deception	vs. "In Him"	- The Fullness of the Godhead
Traditions of men	vs. "In Him"	- We are Complete in Him
Elementary principles of the world	vs. "He is"	- Head over all



2:8-10 The Emptiness of Philosophies vs. Fullness in Christ

II. THE CONFUSION 2:8

Gnosticism Separates

The Material from the Immaterial

The Body from the Soul

The Physical from the Spiritual - elevates the spiritual to the maximum and belittles the material.

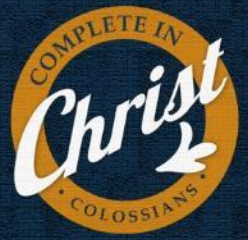
2:8 <u>WARNING #2</u> - 4 Warnings: 2:4, 8, 16, 18

#2 Against the <u>Confusion</u> that leads to Corruption

<u>Contrast > Confusion > Corruption</u>

2:8 *"See to it that no one takes you captive"*

- it's a process
- it's a conflict
- it has a plan
- "*takes you captive*" – kidnap



2:2:8 WARNING #2 **Confusion** (See 2:4, 16, 18 – 4 warnings in total)

"See to it that no one takes you captive...."

"...rather than according to Christ"

1. Philosophy — this is the only occurrence of the word in the New Testament. Here it does not refer to the study of basic questions concerning God, man, and the meaning of life. It refers to the speculations and ideas of false teachers not rooted in divine revelation.

2:2:8 WARNING #2 **Confusion** (See 2:4, 16, 18 – 4 warnings in total)

"See to it that no one takes you captive...."

"...rather than according to Christ"

2. ...and empty deception, - describes "philosophy." The idea is that the particular philosophy Paul had been warning his readers about was empty deception ("vain deceit," AV). These are not two separate dangers.

This had come down to his readers.....



2:2:8 WARNING #2 **Confusion** (See 2:4, 16, 18 – 4 warnings in total)

"See to it that no one takes you captive...."

"...rather than according to Christ"

3. According to the tradition of men, - describes why "the deception is empty."

- These ideas had come down by merely human tradition
- As pagan tradition.
- Even as religious tradition.

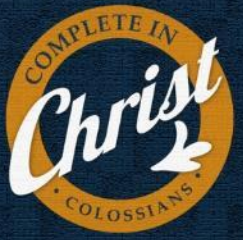
2:2:8 WARNING #2 **Confusion** (See 2:4, 16, 18 – 4 warnings in total)

"See to it that no one takes you captive...."

"...rather than according to Christ"

4. ...according to the elementary principles of the world.

Dr. Constable: "The "elementary principles (Gr. *Stoicheia* – from which we get stoicism) of the world" probably refer to the religious practices the false teachers were promoting that were simply external and physical (v. 20; cf. Gal. 4:3, 9). The view of many commentators is that this false religious system of worship had the elemental spirits as its subject matter (cf. v. 18). These practices probably involved observance of the Law of Moses. Christ was neither the source nor the content of these teachings.



2:8-10 The Emptiness of Philosophies vs. Fullness in Christ

II. THE CONFUSION LEADS TO CORRUPTION 2:8

Examples of Modern Gnostic "Philosophies and Empty Deception":

Not acceptable - Acceptable

III. CHRIST 2:9-10

2:9-10 The Message *"But that's not the way of Christ. Everything of God gets expressed in him, so you can see and hear him clearly. You don't need a telescope, a microscope, or a horoscope to realize the fullness of Christ, and the emptiness of the universe without him. When you come to him, that fullness comes together for you, too. His power extends over everything."*

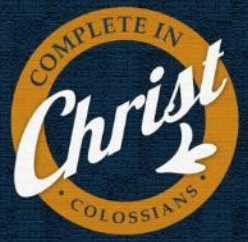


III. CHRIST 2:9-10

1. WHO Christ is 2:9-10

a. "*In Him*" - **He is a Person**

Not some nebulous "gnostic force" or philosophy



III. CHRIST 2:9-10

1. WHO Christ is 2:9-10

b. "*All the fullness of Deity dwells*" - **He is God**

Not some nebulous "gnostic force" or philosophy

Col.1:19 "*For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him,*"

III. CHRIST 2:9-10

1. WHO Christ Is 2:9-10

b. "*All the fullness of Deity dwells*" - **He is God**

Christ Is Complete – Completely God!

Deity (theotetos) = Divine Nature - the unique essence of God (cf. John 1:1)

Divinity (theiotes, - the word Paul uses here and in Rom. 1:20; Acts 17:25) refers to the divine quality of God, which other beings may share (cf. John 1:14).

III. CHRIST 2:9-10

1. WHO Christ Is 2:9-10

c. "In bodily form" - He is God Incarnate

Christ Is Completely Human too!

The big term: The Hypostatic Union 100% + 100% = 100%

A.T. Robertson: "Paul here disposes of the Docetic theory that Jesus had no human body as well as the Cerinthian separation between the man Jesus and the eternal Christ. He asserts plainly the Deity and the Humanity of Jesus Christ in corporeal form."

III. CHRIST 2:9-10

1. WHO Christ Is 2:9-10

d. "He is the Head over (of) all rule and authority" -

Christ is God Sovereign & Potentate

III. CHRIST 2:9-10

1. WHO Christ Is 2:9-10

d. "He is the Head over (of) all rule and authority" -

Christ is God Sovereign & Potentate

Eph.1:20-23 *"…and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And He put all things in subjection under His feet and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all."*

III. CHRIST 2:9-10

2. Who WE Are IN Christ 2:9-10

a. "In Him" - **In Christ**. Not in your own efforts

b. "…*you have been made* ***COMPLETE***"

Complete - Not in and of ourselves

Not from self-effort or achievement

But In Him

2:9-10 The Fullness of Christ Complete in Christ

III. THE CHRIST 2:9-10

2. WHO We Are IN Christ 2:9-10

b. *"...you have been made **COMPLETE**"*

Col.1:19-20 & 2:14 has already laid the basis for the

Doctrine of Completeness

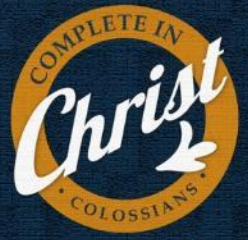
H0W? **The Cross**

1:19 *"...the Fullness* (The Completeness) *dwells in Him"*

We are brought back into that Fullness / Completeness.....

1:20 *"...through the blood of **the Cross**."*

2:14 *"....having cancelled out the certificate of debt....having nailed it to **the Cross**."*



2. WHO We Are IN Christ 2:9-10

Wiersbe explains the process: "When a person is born again into the family of God, he is born complete in Christ. **His spiritual growth is not by addition, but by nutrition.** He grows from the inside out. Nothing needs to be added to Christ because He already is the very fullness of God. As the believer draws on Christ's fullness, he is "… filled up to all the fullness of God." (Eph. 3:19). What more does he need?"

III. THE CHRIST 2:9-10

2. WHO We Are IN Christ 2:9-10 COMPLETE

Spirit – From Forgiven to Glorified .....

Soul – Bride of Christ, Gifted by the Spirit .....

Body – Eternal life, Resurrection coming

Took from Colossians 2:8-10

Take home:

1. We have the real super-gnosis. The Truth - that we are Complete in Christ (they are empty). Take that to the bank!
2. Identify areas of your life in which you do not sense Completeness.
3. Talk to the Lord about it and look for Scripture that would speak to it.

Took from Colossians 2:8-10

Take home:

4. Speak to your mentor / accountability partner about it.

5. Cancel out your old way of thinking – that the world and what it offers will FILL / complete you. It won't.
Focus on Christ and WHO He Is!
That will fill / complete you.

“…. in Him you have been made complete!” Col.2:10

