

“Christ In Us: Made Complete”

Growth Group Guide

September 7, 2025

WELCOME *(Connecting with each other)*

If you could choose to change your DNA so you could live underwater, would you? Maybe you'd like to change your DNA so you could live in some other environment inhospitable to humans...a gas planet or the moon? Choose your “new” environment and tell why you would like to live there if it was humanly possible.

WORSHIP THROUGH PRAYER *(Connecting with God)*

Read the verses below. Celebrate that God has placed you, dear Christian, in Christ. Jesus is the air you breathe and environment you live in now!

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT) This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life [and environment] is gone; a new life [and environment] has begun!

Psalms 9:1-2 (NLT) I will praise you, LORD, with all my heart; I will tell of all the marvelous things you have done. I will be filled with joy because of you. I will sing praises to your name, O Most High.

Psalms 70:4 (NLT) May all who search for you be filled with joy and gladness in you. May those who love your salvation repeatedly shout, “God is great!”

WORD *(Letting God speak to us)*

1. **Read Acts 17:28a in the NIV.** Salvation isn't about fixing wrongs, it's about changing our spiritual DNA so that we can live in a different environment like underwater instead of on land. How does this change your view of yourself, of God, and the activity of your daily life?
2. **Read Colossians 2:6-7 in the NIV.** What “us in Christ” qualities do you find in these verses? (Some are inferred possibilities.) In v6, Paul calls Jesus LORD which means He is complete sufficiency, more than enough. How is this good to know regarding the qualities just listed?
3. Look at v6 again. Notice the order of ideas before Paul tells us to continue growing in Jesus (i.e., “being built up in him” is a way to say “growing”). Why do you think he found it important to put these thoughts together in this order?
4. Look at 2:6a again. It says, “...just as you received Christ Jesus... ” Using one word or a simple phrase, describe how we received Jesus?
5. What other things in these verses give us confidence this sort of life Paul is talking about is possible?
6. Discuss how the qualities and ideas from this passage can become a lifestyle we live every day moving forward.
7. **Read Colossians 2:8 in the PHILLIPS version.** What sort of traditions, thoughts, or ideas tempt us to go it on our own without Jesus? Why

are these alluring? What qualities in Jesus are better than what these temptations appear to offer?

8. **Read Colossians 2:9-10 in the NIV.** What do we learn about Jesus in v9? How does this bring home that we are filled full (i.e., a state of fullness) being in Jesus? Since it's true, what can we do if/when we don't feel we are not full or complete?
9. **Read Colossians 2:11-12 in the NIV.** Circumcision removes something. Paul is saying the old spiritual condition we had in Adam was removed when we became Christians. Based on these verses, how was this condition removed from us? (Hint: it's less about water and more about being “IN.”)
10. Flesh, which is habit patterns we develop for living independent of God, ruled us while we were in Adam. We still have flesh patterns as Christians, but they don't rule over us any longer. Describe briefly why this is true. How does your explanation help you live more regularly in dependence on Jesus and less on the flesh?
11. In Colossians 2:7, Paul says thankfulness would overflow as we grow in who we are in Christ. What thankfulness is overflowing in you because of the discoveries you are making about yourself in Christ?

WALK *(Living out God's purposes)*

- ✓ **One Big Idea: We are alive and active, and fully ourselves in Christ, having our foundation, growth, and completeness found in Him.** You have a vibrant, active life IN you. The life of Jesus. But you also live IN Him. You are living in His vibrant, active life. You now have a firm foundation to walk on and you can be yourself. Drawing on His life, you can habitually walk by the Spirit and grow in Him. Meditate on each of the gifts listed in our One Big Idea. One a day. Rejoice that where you were before Jesus, you are no longer there in Him!

WORLD *(Embracing God's heart for others)*

Through Haitian Christian Mission this summer, your support made it possible for families across Haiti to receive critical food supplies, something that's become even more precious as hardship continues to grow. In Fonda Varrettes and Barassa, Pastory Sylvio led a powerful 40-day spiritual convention and 83 families also received provisions. In Fonds Cheval, a dedicated leadership team showed bravery and commitment allowing 100 families to receive food and care despite gang activity. In Fonds Parisien, Pastor Thomas and Clarine went even further, reaching out to neighbors who don't attend church. They told them, “We give this food because of the love of Christ.” Every provision given in these, and other locations, said: *You are loved. You are not alone. Jesus cares for you.* Together with HCM, we are planting seeds of faith and healing. Pray for ongoing resources to feed families and meet both physical and spiritual needs across Haiti. Ask too for lasting transformation in the lives of those who heard the Gospel through food distribution and VBS this summer.

[Copies of this Guide are available at <https://thurston.church/resources>]