

Daily Bible Readings

Our Read-Ahead for: 12 February 2023

“Full Life in Christ”

Monday: Those Touched by Jesus (**Matthew 8:1-4**)

Tuesday: Those Called by God (**Acts 2:37-42**)

Wednesday: Those Who Are in Christ Jesus (**Romans 8:1-5**)

Thursday: Those Who Live in Spirit (**Roman 8:6-11**)

Friday: Those Who Love God (**Roman 8:26-30**)

Saturday: Those Kept in Christ’s Love (**Roman 8:31-39**)

Sunday: Those Who Have Received Christ Jesus (**Colossians 2:6-15**)

Full Life in Christ
Printed Text • **Colossians 2:6–15**
Bible Background • **Colossians 2:6–15**
Devotional Reading • **Romans 8:31–39**

Keep in Mind: *“For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell;” (Colossians 1:19, KJV)*

Aim for Change

By the end of the lesson, we will: **EXPLORE** Paul’s message describing a full life in Christ; **EXPRESS** thanksgiving for God’s forgiveness through Jesus Christ; and **REMAIN** rooted in faith by continuing to pursue an understanding of life in the fullness of Jesus Christ and be thankful to Him.”

In Focus

In today’s lesson, Paul deals head-on with traditions and philosophies that threaten to unsettle the budding church in Colosse. Like this church, we, too, need to be exhorted.

Focal Verses
KJV Colossians 2:6-14

6 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:

7 Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

11 In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:

12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way.

The Lesson

I. The People, Places and Times

- a. **Gnosticism:** Gnosticism comes from the Greek word gnosis, meaning “knowledge.” The Gnostics separated matter from thought. They concluded that matter was evil and formulated the idea that the possession of knowledge was the only requirement for salvation. This is why they did not want to attribute humanity to Jesus Christ because to them, material things were evil. Paul stresses that in Him (Jesus Christ as He appeared on Earth) “dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily” (from Colossians 2:9, KJV). Jesus was truly God in the flesh (John 1:14). As a result of their philosophical concepts; that the body is evil. The Gnostics ignored or diminished the significance of the historic facts of the ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ because it was so apparent. They thought, all the secrets of God were in the mind or only appeared within an immaterial identity.

- b. **Circumcision:** Jewish baby boys are circumcised at 8 days old. Mosaic Law mandated this. (Leviticus 12:3). Circumcision “marked males as a belonging of God, and it was supposed to be more than an outward sign, signifying complete devotion to God (Deuteronomy 10:16). When Gentiles began turning to Jesus, a big discussion arose as to whether Gentile Christian men needed to be circumcised. Paul pointed out that uncircumcised Gentiles had come to Christ simply by grace through faith. No one came to Christ through anything else. Because no one was able to keep the law to perfection, it was obvious that the law, including circumcision, did not save anyone. Today, many baby boys are circumcised though not necessarily for religious reasons. Studies have shown the circumcised males are less likely to get sexually transmitted diseases when exposed to them and other potential conditions. As a result, circumcision is sometimes done as a preventative measure”

II. Background

Throughout his ministry, Paul wrote letters of correction, gave instructions, and built up the faith of the body of Christ. It was especially important to do this in locations whose

congregations had not met him. In the letter to the Colossians, his purpose was to refute heretical teachings (including a form of Gnosticism) that were causing confusion. Paul's references to circumcision, food regulations, and feast days indicate that this heresy involved Judaist tendencies. Instead of refuting the false teachings point by point, Paul gives encouragement in laying out a clear argument that all things are fulfilled in the person of Christ. He stresses that all wisdom and spiritual understanding can be found in the God-Man, Christ, who redeemed them and now holds authority over all things.

III. In Depth

- a. **Warnings Against Strange Teachings** (Colossians 2:6–8) Paul warns members of this part of the family against deception: Arguments that may sound rational on the surface run counter to what they had accepted by faith in Christ. Paul affirms that they have received Christ Jesus as Lord and should live their lives planted, rooted, and established in Him alone.”
- b. **Fullness of Life in Christ** (Colossians 2:9–10) Paul continues this discourse with his church family in Colosse by reemphasizing what he said in chapter 1, in a slightly different manner. In Colossians 1:15–20, he details that Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God and that all things in heaven and on Earth were created by Him and for Him. Paul revisits this point in chapter 2 by informing believers that Jesus Christ came in the flesh and is fully divine (2:9). This church family is exhorted to stand firm and know that because of its faith in Jesus Christ alone and because people in that family live for His glory, they are complete in His fullness.
- c. **Believers Are Complete in Christ** (Colossians 2:11–15) Every Jewish male was circumcised to show devotion to God. But although a man may have been circumcised as a baby, he may not try to please God when he is an adult. Circumcision cuts off a piece of flesh, but receiving Jesus Christ as Savior means Jesus Christ has cut away our old sinful nature. Paul says the rite of circumcision is something like baptism. When we are plunged into the water, our old sinful selves are buried with Jesus. Then we are raised to life by the power of God, through our faith in Him. Paul says it's also like a piece of parchment containing a list of a person's debts. When the debts are paid, the writing is erased.”

IV. Take Aways

V. Closing Prayer