

# Colossians 2 – 4 December 2022

## “Complete & Free In Christ”

### Introduction

\*Theme: Godhood, centrality, & sufficiency of Jesus

\*In Chap 1 Paul established that Jesus Christ is our Creator and redeemer

\*Now Paul builds on the centrality of Jesus to begin addressing the major heresy of the day in Colosse

\*That is Gnosticism – they emphasize personal knowledge above orthodox teaching

\*If knowledge of God isn't open & available to all...

\*Then it leads to modern thinking of “my truth”

\*It brings the rise of “Well, I feel like God is...”

\*Then there's nothing then to reason thru

“We can't give secret knowledge or our feeling that kind of authority – they're not objective reality

**Let's establish 3 beliefs today that will prevent us from falling for 'secret knowledge'**

# 1<sup>st</sup> belief for avoiding secret knowledge: The sufficiency of Jesus Christ (Vs 1-10)

Read Vs 1-2

1. With great passion Paul desires that they would be strengthened & encouraged by knowing how great a blessing it is that Christ is in them
2. Gnostics used this word *mystery* & Paul's throwing it back about how great Jesus' *mystery* is

Read Vs 3-4

1. Read II Pet 1:3: He has all & gives what we need
2. Focus of Christ having all knowledge is that you will not find "other" knowledge or a "secret" way to salvation (Read Prov 8:1-3)
  - a. Great old expression: "*Next to knowing, is knowing where to find out!*"
  - b. Christ is the end of the pursuit for wisdom
3. Christ has all awareness of eternal life, there's nowhere else you need look
  - a. Stop searching and live in contentment

## Read Vs 5

1. Although Paul isn't there, his looking out for them as a shepherd would

## Read Vs 6

1. How have we received Christ? In faith that in Christ's cross we've literally received the H.S.
  - a. Read Gal 3:2-3: There's nothing else that could be added to this to change or improve it
  - b. Mormonism says, 'ok, you have Jesus but you need to add this further revelation'. False
2. There's no new truth, just new experience

## Read Vs 7

1. There's always a rooting 1<sup>st</sup>, then building
  - a. S & S Parable - Seed among stones had no root & withered (Matt 13:6)
  - b. Jeremiah sent to root out THEN build up
  - c. Read Prov 12:3 – We need depth

## Read Vs 8-9

1. Many people have religious motives but they're totally lacking in that they have no power
  - a. II Tim 3:1-5 – deny power thereof, turn away
  - b. What's the power? The Cross (Rom 1:16)
2. Jesus has given us freely all that we need (vs 9)
  - a. Read Matt 7:11 – God wants to give us and bless us
  - b. “Spoil” in vs 8 literally means to have your riches taken away from you

## Read Vs 10

1. Nothing in this world that could make us ‘better’ than what Jesus has done
2. Nothing in this world ‘you’re missing out on’
3. Nothing in this world that could bring us any satisfaction
4. We’ve found the full reality of why we were created once we’ve found love of Christ on cross
  - a. And now we experience Him throughout life forever!

## **2<sup>nd</sup> belief for avoiding secret knowledge: God's singular plan for all time (Vs 11-15)**

Read Vs 11

1. Deacon Stephen ended his great discourse in Acts 7 by saying Jews are always uncircumcised in heart and ears – that was their real problem
2. It was always a pic of removing the hindrance of the flesh
3. Read Rom 2:28-29 – It was given to point to the work of Christ in giving us the Spirit's power
4. Notice the true spiritual circumcision is 'made w/o hands'
  - a. Read Gal 6:15: we've become new creature by the H.S. blowing in and doing His work

Read Vs 12

1. It was God's working that raised Jesus from the dead & b/c we believe it, it's God's working that raised us from the dead

2. Baptism: a picture of identifying w/ God plan
  - a. Turn to I Cor 10:1-5 – God was pointing them to Christ’s work the whole time

Read Vs 13-14

1. Cross is the burying of the baptism. The cross is the cutting away of the flesh of circumcision
2. As if the Law of Moses was a *handwritten letter of judgement* against us signed by God & Jesus completing the Law was able to remove the letter with his payment on the cross

Read Vs 15

1. He spoiled them in that Jesus’ resurrection disarmed them of their power.
  - a. Twitter had power to disable Trump’s acct. Then Musk bought Twitter & disarmed them
2. Who was disarm? Roman’s political power, Jews religious power, & the power of death itself
3. The resurrection wasn’t done secretly, it’s a provable historical fact

## **3<sup>rd</sup> belief for avoiding secret knowledge: Some people want to divert you from Christ (Vs 16-23)**

Read Vs 16-17

1. It's not whether we do or don't do these things that matter but that we're born-again
2. They're simply used to illustrate the greatness of Jesus Christ and His payment on the cross

Read Vs 18

1. Don't let anyone trick you out of your reward of hope, peace and love of Jesus by lies
2. They act all humble while telling you grand fairy tales
3. They worship angels instead of Jesus
4. This all originated from w/i them, not from God

## Read Vs 19

1. They would divert us away from Jesus
  - a. I Tim 2:5 – one God, one Mediator between God & man, the Man Christ Jesus
  - b. He's where we get our very *sustainment*
  - c. He's where we get our *connectedness* from

## Read Vs 20-22

1. There is nothing on earth that can make you spiritually clean or unclean
  - a. Read Matt 15:11, maybe read vss 15-20
2. Turn to I Tim 4:1-5 – God may lead you to a diet, but no one can put you on one

## Read Vs 23

1. Setting a bunch of rules for your body may look like you're disciplined but it's only outward and hasn't affected your heart
  - a. Read Matt 6:26 – Don't worry about men's opinion, but be concerned about God's



## Conclusion

So, are you still striving, wondering, worrying if you've actually found the truth of Who made you, why you're here and where we're all going?

1. **Rest in the sufficiency of Jesus Christ**
  - a. He delights to tell you & give you all good things – nothing withheld
  - b. All the power we need is in Christ
2. **Live in freedom knowing God's plan for your salvation is the same from start to finish**
  - a. God doesn't get surprised or do quick turns
    - i. OT plans for our redemption & NT does it
  - b. We have the complete mind of God to humanity in the Word of God – no surprises
3. **Avoid those diverting you from Jesus Christ**
  - a. Anything beyond God's revelation to us is man's attempt to elevate himself – yuck!
  - b. Don't lose your peace & joy b/c of some man-made rules that have no effectiveness