

A. SERMON SLIDES

Slide 1:

Full in Christ

Colossians 2:1-15

Slide 2:

Colossians 2:1-15 ESV

For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face, that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments. For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ.

Slide 3:

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.

Slide 4:

In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

Slide 5:

"The world which surrounds us is nothing but an immense spiritual emptiness. It is a dead universe. If the scheme of things is purposeless and meaningless, then the life of man is purposeless and meaningless also. Everything is futile. All, ever in the end is worthless. A man may, of course, still pursue disconnected ends: money, fame, art, science, and may gain some pleasure from them, but his life is hollow at the center."

W.T. Stace

Slide 6:

"I felt a great emptiness inside, as if I had been searching for a glimpse, not outside, but within myself, and had discovered that there was nothing to be found."

Bernhard Schlink

Slide 7:

We have been filled with the God of the universe

Slide 8:

If Christ is all, and resides within, then Christ is all we need

Slide 9:

Two Ways to be Full

1) Full in Correct Gospel Faith (vs 6,7)

2) Full in the Life, Death and Resurrection of Christ (Vs 8-15)

Slide 10:

Correct Gospel Faith (Right Object of Faith)

Christ Jesus the Lord

Slide 11:

Christ

Slide 12:

Jesus

Slide 13:

The Lord

Slide 14:

Acts 2:36 (ESV)

"Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both ***Lord and Christ, this Jesus*** whom you crucified."

Slide 15:

If ALL of God is in ALL of Him, and ALL of Him is in ALL of you...what are you lacking?

Slide 16:

Life, Death and Resurrection (Activating what Christ has done)

Slide 17:

Pluralism

(All the ingredients are equally valid)

Slide 18:

Syncretism

(Let's make an omelet)

Slide 19:

The reason we go after other philosophies in order to find meaning is because we have lost vital contact with Jesus.

Slide 20:

Christian Mechanisms to Remain Close:

- 1) Read your Bible!
- 2) Keep Gathering to Worship
- 3) Take in Gospel Preaching/Teaching
- 4) Partake in Communion/Baptism
- 5) Talk to God
- 6) Journal
- 7) Meditate

B. GROUP DISCUSSION

1) Read Colossians 1:1-15. What is the big problem Paul is addressing? Do we think it is easier or more difficult today to be swayed by "plausible arguments" that lead us away from the sufficiency of Christ?

2) Talk about the meaning of these 3 words:

- 1) Jesus (Savior)
- 2) Messiah (Anointed One Promised from Genesis 3)
- 3) The Lord (Total allegiance due to Him)

Explain how maybe most of our own drifting comes from not really activating, or believing in one of these names.

What (who) else do you hope will save you?

What (who) else do you obey without question? Joyfully obey?

What (wh0) else has become the promise you are awaiting for fulfillment?

3) Jesus explains the life, burial and resurrection of Jesus. He does this to combat the weird philosophies that had come into the church. How does Baptism give us a picture of entering into His life, death and burial? If our hearts must be circumcised, how can that happen?

4) So if emptiness, and combating that emptiness, is part of our growth process, how may these strategies help us to go to the right place for filling?

- 1) Read your Bible!
- 2) Keep Gathering to Worship
- 3) Take in Gospel Preaching/Teaching
- 4) Partake in Communion/Baptism
- 5) Talk to God
- 6) Journal

7) Meditate

What other ways have you found/employed that keep you close to Christ?

5) How may these other areas give us "plausible arguments" but send us further from the filling that we need *if we are not careful?*

- 1) Read a good book to "understand" something better
- 2) Talk to a friend or a family member, someone to provide comfort.
- 3) Look for answers on social media...look to "Influencers."
- 4) Google it
- 5) Blog or podcast on the topic
- 6) Seek professional counseling

None of these strategies are wrong, but why is it more likely that these will lead us into false hopes, and so we must be watchful? What is a plausible argument?

6) Prayer and praise