

(2:1NLT) I want you to know how much I have agonized for you and for the church at Laodicea, and for many other believers who have never met me personally.

(2:2-3 NLT) I want them to be encouraged and knit together by strong ties of love. I want them to have complete confidence that they understand God's mysterious plan, which is Christ himself. In him lie hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

(2:4-5 NLT) I am telling you this so no one will deceive you with well-crafted arguments. For though I am far away from you, my heart is with you. And I rejoice that you are living as you should and that your faith in Christ is strong.

(2:6) Therefore, as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,

--- Beware of Deceptions ---

(Colossians 2:8) See to it that there is no one who takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception in accordance with human tradition, in accordance with the elementary principles of the world, rather than in accordance with Christ.

✓ Beware of _____.

(Colossians 2:16-17) Therefore, no one is to act as your judge in regard to food and drink, or in respect to a festival or a new moon, or a Sabbath day— things which are only a shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ.

✓ Beware of _____.

(Colossians 2:18) Take care that no one keeps defrauding you of your prize by delighting in humility and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on visions he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind,

✓ Beware of _____.

(Colossians 2:20-23) If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees, such as, "Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!" (which all refer to things destined to perish with use)—in accordance with the commandments and teachings of man? These are matters which do have the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and humility and severe treatment of the body, but are of no value against fleshly indulgence.

✓ Beware of _____.

(2:6-7) Therefore, as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.

(2:19) holding firmly to the head, from whom the entire body, being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments, grows with a growth which is from God.

--- Understanding God's mysterious plan; Christ Himself ---

1. I believe that Jesus fully _____.

(2:9-15) For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form,

2. I believe that my life is _____,
who rules over every power and authority.

(2:10) and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over every ruler and authority;

3. I believe through my _____,
my old life has been put away and I now share in His new life.

(2:11-12) and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision performed without hands, in the removal of 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 working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

4. I believe in my new life in Christ, I am fully _____
from every power that once stood against me.

(2:13-15) And when you were dead in your wrongdoings and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our wrongdoings, having canceled the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.