

Colossians 2:1-23
Bible Study Notes

Chapter 2 — Complete in Christ

Theme: Beware of false teaching; Christ alone is sufficient.

Key Verses:

- Colossians 2:9–10 – “For in Him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in Him...”

Outline:

1. Paul’s Struggle for the Church (2:1–5) – His desire for their maturity and unity.
2. Rooted and Built Up in Christ (2:6–7) – Walk in Him, stay grounded in truth.
3. Warning Against Deception (2:8–15) – Human tradition and empty philosophy can’t add to Christ.
4. Freedom from Legalism (2:16–23) – Rules, rituals, and asceticism can’t produce righteousness.

“For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”

Ephesians 3:14-21 ESV

<https://bible.com/bible/59/eph.3.14-21.ESV>

“Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.”

Acts 20:28-32 ESV

<https://bible.com/bible/59/act.20.28-32.ESV>

“Circumcise yourselves to the Lord; remove the foreskin of your hearts, O men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem; lest my wrath go forth like fire, and burn with none to quench it,

because of the evil of your deeds.””

Jeremiah 4:4 ESV

<https://bible.com/bible/59/jer.4.4.ESV>

““Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.””

Jeremiah 31:31-34 ESV

<https://bible.com/bible/59/jer.31.31-34.ESV>

“For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God.”

Romans 2:28-29 ESV

<https://bible.com/bible/59/rom.2.28-29.ESV>

“For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

Galatians 5:1 ESV

<https://bible.com/bible/59/gal.5.1-7.ESV>

“These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.”

Colossians 2:17 ESV

<https://bible.com/bible/59/col.2.17.ESV>

Christ is our Sabbath

Christ is our Passover

Christ is our Head and source of life

“But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.”

Galatians 5:16 ESV

<https://bible.com/bible/59/gal.5.16.ESV>

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one

another.”

Galatians 5:22-26 ESV

<https://bible.com/bible/59/gal.5.22-26.ESV>

“His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

2 Peter 1:3-11 ESV

<https://bible.com/bible/59/2pe.1.3-11.ESV>

Rooted and Built Up in Christ

1. What does it mean for your faith to be “rooted and built up” in Christ (v.7)?
2. How can you stay grounded in truth when culture promotes “plausible arguments” (v.4)?

The Power of the Cross

3. What does verse 14 reveal about what Jesus accomplished for you personally?
4. How does knowing that Jesus “disarmed the rulers and authorities” (v.15) change how you view spiritual warfare?

Freedom from Legalism

5. What’s the difference between living by human rules versus living by the Spirit?
6. Are there any “religious habits” or performance-driven mindsets you need to surrender to Christ?

Application Challenge:

- This week, focus on Colossians 2:6–7 — “As you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him.”

Pray: “Lord, deepen my roots in You. Let me walk in the same faith and grace that saved me.”