



## COLOSSIANS 2 PART 1

We live in a culture that thrives on the sensation of lack. Every advertisement, every self-help book, and every new philosophy is designed to tell you that you are missing one "secret ingredient" to a happy, fulfilled life. Even within the church, this creeps in. We start believing we need Jesus plus a specific emotional experience, Jesus plus a strict set of man-made rules, or Jesus plus intellectual prestige to truly be spiritual. We act as if Christ is a starter kit, and it is up to us to buy the expansion packs to make the faith work.

Colossians 2 destroys this way of thinking. Paul argues that you cannot add to a glass that is already full to the brim. If the fullness of the Godhead dwells in Christ bodily, and you are in Christ, then you are not a "fixer-upper" project waiting for a new philosophy to complete you. You are already complete. The challenge of this study is to stop looking for wisdom in the empty traditions of the world and to realize that you are already standing on the only solid ground there is.

***"I Know What the Bible Says, But..." This phrase is a major red flag, indicating we are placing our feelings above God's Word. When was the last time you felt a conflict between your emotions and a clear command of Scripture? (OT: 1 Samuel 15:22 | NT: John 14:15)***

### Study Questions:

1. Paul describes having a "great conflict" for the believers, referring to his intense labor in prayer. Why is intercessory prayer often described as a battle or a struggle in Scripture, and what distracts you when you try to pray for others? (OT: Exodus 17:11-12 | NT: Romans 15:30)
2. Satan rarely uses obvious lies; he uses "persuasive words" that sound good but lack truth. Can you identify a popular modern philosophy that sounds "nice" or "fair" but contradicts the nature of God? (OT: Genesis 3:4-5 | NT: 2 Corinthians 11:14)
3. Paul uses the military term "good order," implying a soldier standing in proper battle formation. What does it look like practically for a believer to break rank, and how does that endanger the rest of the unit (the church)? (OT: Joel 2:7-8 | NT: Ephesians 6:11)
4. We are told to be "built up" in Him. In construction, if the foundation is off, the whole building eventually collapses. What are some "faulty foundations" (other than Christ) that people try to build their lives on? (OT: Isaiah 28:16 | NT: 1 Corinthians 3:11)
5. We connected suffering to being "perfect and complete" (James 1). How can a believer go through ugly trials with "spiritual beauty," and what does that look like to the watching world? (OT: Genesis 50:20 | NT: James 1:2-4)