

Christ is Sufficient

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Introduction: A father found his daughter in tears and asked her what was going on. “Dad, you gave me some terrible advice”, she responded. “What did I tell you?” asked the dad. “You told me to put my money in the bank to keep it safe, and now the bank is in trouble.” “What are you talking about that’s one of the largest banks in the world,” he said, “surely there must be some mistake.” “I don’t think so” she sniffed. They just returned one of my checks was a note saying, ‘Insufficient funds’.

The good news is that when we come before God with our needs there is never a question of insufficient funds, especially when it comes to salvation. What Jesus did was enough, sufficient for our salvation and godliness.

The sufficiency of Christ is one of the key themes in Paul’s letter to the believers in Colossae.

What does the sufficiency of Christ mean?

To say that Christ is sufficient is to say that there is nothing else in addition to Jesus that we need for salvation, life, satisfaction or fullness. Having the Lord Jesus Christ is to have everything needed in spiritual life for time and eternity. To have Him is to have everything, not to have Him is to have absolutely nothing at all.

Colossians 2:9-10 (NKJV) For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; ¹⁰ and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

Other scriptures on the sufficiency of Christ:

1 Corinthians 1:30 (NKJV) But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God and righteousness and sanctification and redemption.

2 Corinthians 3:5-6 (NKJV) Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as *being* from ourselves, but our sufficiency *is* from God, ⁶ who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

Philippians 4:13 (AMP) I can do all things [which He has called me to do] through Him who strengthens *and* empowers me [to fulfill His purpose—I am self-sufficient in Christ’s sufficiency; I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him who infuses me with inner strength and confident peace.]

Ephesians 1:3 (NKJV) Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ

Hebrews 10:14 (NKJV) For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

2 Peter 1:2-3 (NKJV) Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, ³ as His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue...

All joy, peace, meaning, value, purpose, hope, and fulfillment in life now and forever are bound up in Christ. Salvation and the power to live holy are found in Him. Jesus is sufficient.

Sadly, some people believe that receiving Jesus Christ is some kind of starting point, and you've got to accumulate a whole bunch of other stuff out of the world to fulfill your life. They see Jesus as a part of their lives and not the very source of life and salvation.

This kind of thinking is not unique to our time. While Paul was in prison in Rome, Epaphras, one of his fellow workers who had taken the gospel to Colossae, came to see him. He informed Paul that the believers were doing well and growing in their faith, but that there were those who were making their way into the church trying to steer the believers away with the idea that Jesus wasn't sufficient.

This prompted Paul to write this brief but powerful letter warning believers of theological error and encouraging them to continue growing in Christ.

Colossians 2:6-8 (NLT) And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. ⁷ Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness. ⁸ Don't let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ.

Keep following Jesus

The message of the gospel concerning Christ had radically changed their lives, filling them with love for the people and hope for the future.

Colossians 1:3-8 (NLT) We always pray for you, and we give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ For we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and your love for all of God's people, ⁵ which come from your confident hope of what God has reserved for you in heaven. You have had this expectation ever since you first heard the truth of the Good News.

⁶ This same Good News that came to you is going out all over the world. It is bearing fruit everywhere by changing lives, just as it changed your lives from the day you first heard and understood the truth about God's wonderful grace.

⁷ You learned about the Good News from Epaphras, our beloved co-worker. He is Christ's faithful servant, and he is helping us on your behalf. ⁸ He has told us about the love for others that the Holy Spirit has given you.

All these things that Paul heard about them from Epaphras was encouraging but there was also the treat of being steered away from the truth of the sufficiency of Christ.

Paul's prayer for them

As a leader Paul doesn't just write to them, he also prays that they would truly understand the sufficiency of Christ and keep from drifting away from the truth.

Colossians 1:9-12 (NLT) So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding. ¹⁰ Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better.

¹¹ We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need. May you be filled with joy, ¹² always thanking the Father. He has enabled you to share in the inheritance that belongs to his people, who live in the light.

He prays that they would understand that what Jesus did was sufficient.

Because of what Jesus did, they could be fully acquainted with what God would have them do. They can make wise decisions and come to a greater understanding of the ways of God.

Because of what Jesus they can receive strength to endure and not break under the pressures of this world or life situations. They can be filled with joy.

All of this is not because they can do it on their own but because the father has enabled them to share in this inheritance called salvation.

He did this through Christ His Son.

Colossians 1:13-14 (NLT) For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, ¹⁴ who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins.

It was important that they continue to follow Him and grow in the truth that they were taught.

Grow in the knowledge of who Jesus is

Colossians 2:7 (NKJV) Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him.

So many people drift away from the faith because their spiritual roots are shallow.

As a tree strikes its roots deep in the earth, so our faith should strike deep into the doctrine concerning Jesus. You and I need to make sure that we are growing in the knowledge of who Jesus really is.

In chapter one Paul give a beautiful description of who Jesus is.

Colossians 1:15-20 (NLT) Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, ¹⁶ for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together. ¹⁸ Christ is also the head of the church, which is his body. He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead. So he is first in everything. ¹⁹ For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ, ²⁰ and through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross.

This is who saved you and worked the plan of salvation for you.

Colossians 1:21-22 (NLT) This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions. ²² Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault.

Jesus was sufficient to save us and give us the power to live a life that is pleasing to God.

Continue to be believe and stand firm

Colossians 1:23 (NLT) But you must continue to believe this truth and stand firmly in it. Don't drift away from the assurance you received when you heard the Good News. The Good News has been preached all over the world, and I, Paul, have been appointed as God's servant to proclaim it.

Colossians 2:8 (NLT) Don't let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ.

The church was being threatened by two errors philosophies of men and Jewish legalism.

1 Corinthians 1:22-23 (NLT) It is foolish to the Jews, who ask for signs from heaven. And it is foolish to the Greeks, who seek human wisdom. ²³ So when we preach that Christ was crucified, the Jews are offended, and the Gentiles say it's all nonsense.

The Greeks loved knowledge and prided themselves in their complex philosophical systems. They belittled the simplicity of the gospel. To them Jesus alone was not sufficient. Salvation involved Jesus plus knowledge.

To the Judaizers, Jesus wasn't sufficient for salvation, circumcision and keeping the festival were necessary for salvation.

Colossians 2:11-13 (NLT) When you came to Christ, you were “circumcised,” but not by a physical procedure. Christ performed a spiritual circumcision the cutting away of your sinful nature. ¹² For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead. ¹³ You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. ¹⁴ He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross.

Christ is sufficient! There is nothing else in addition to Jesus that we need for salvation, life, satisfaction or fullness. Having the Lord Jesus Christ is to have everything needed in spiritual life for time and eternity. To have Him is to have everything, not to have Him is to have absolutely nothing at all.