

Complete in Christ – Col. 2:6-10

- I. Introduction
 - a. All you need
 - i. Trivial
 - 1. Everything you need for a satisfying and nutritious hot meal in minutes
 - a. Took Boston Market rotisserie chicken dinner to the park after Sunday services
 - b. There were no plates, forks or napkins!
 - 2. All you need to file your federal and state income taxes
 - 3. All you need is a modern-day marketing gimmick
 - 4. We have learned to take it with a grain of salt
 - ii. More Serious
 - 1. Love is all you need – I'm not sure the Beatles got this right
 - 2. You are all you need – Not exactly
 - b. But when God says that we are complete in Christ, that all we need is in Him, we know it's the truth.
- II. Main thought: When it comes to our spiritual well being and moral guidance if we have Christ, we have all that we need.
- III. Exposition
 - a. vs. 6 – If you have Christ, use your knowledge of Him to guide your life
 - i. What have we received of Christ?
 - 1. His words – In the Gospels
 - 2. His deeds – In the Gospels
 - 3. His spirit/attitude (Rom. 8:9)
 - ii. What effect does it have on our lives?
 - 1. It should guide every
 - a. thought we think,
 - b. word we speak
 - c. action we perform,
 - d. and decision that we make
 - 2. Walking in Him means
 - a. following in His footsteps
 - b. not walking outside of Him
 - c. He provides total guidance to our lives
 - b. v. 7 – Inputs and outputs
 - i. What has happened?
 - 1. We have been firmly rooted
 - 2. Made stable
 - 3. Thoroughly grounded
 - 4. When did this happen... when we were buried and raised with Christ (v. 11-13)
 - a. Fruit trees –

- i. come as bare roots
 - ii. barely alive – sure to die soon
 - iii. Unless... they are planted
 - b. The quality of the planting is determined by the skill of the planter
 - i. How good a planter is God??
 - ii. He knows how to do it properly!
- ii. What is happening? You are being...
 - 1. Built up in Him
 - 2. Established in faith
 - 3. How? as you were taught
 - a. See Epaphras' teaching to them in Col. 1:7
 - b. This is what the teaching of God's word can do for us
 - i. We can not build ourselves up in Christ ... but God's word CAN
 - ii. We cannot establish our own faith – but God's word CAN
 - c. Why any Christian would choose to pass up an opportunity to receive the teaching of Christ is hard to understand
 - d. Why any Christian would prefer spiritual or moral instruction that did not come from Christ or his inspired servants is hard to understand
 - i. But it happens in our day
 - ii. It was happening in Colossae (v. 8)
 - iii. These words were written to them and to us so that we would not discount the eternal, infinitely valuable teaching of the cross and the one who suffered there in preference to anything else
- iii. What else is happening?
 - 1. Since these things have been done to you and are being done to you...
 - 2. You are overflowing with gratitude
 - a. Is this you?
 - b. Is this me?
- c. vs. 8 -- If we do not properly appreciate the infinite value of Christ and His guidance for us, we may be misled
 - i. A warning: Don't be taken captive!
 - 1. The captors
 - a. Philosophy
 - b. Empty deception
 - 2. The source of the trouble
 - a. Traditions of men
 - b. Elemental principles or spirits of the world

- c. Anything not of Christ!
 - 3. The right source
 - a. Christ
 - b. If it comes from Christ, by all means be captivated by it!
- ii. What about today?
 - 1. What are the philosophies and empty deceptions that captivate people, even God's people, today?
 - a. The capability of human systems
 - b. The magnitude of human knowledge
 - c. The independence of the human spirit
 - d. The progression of the universe
 - e. The security of promised abundance
 - f. The liberation of permissive culture
 - g. The attraction of an charismatic persona
 - h. The enlightenment of supernatural communications
 - i. The distraction of worldly entertainment –
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 - 2. Each claims to have sufficient authority to guide and rule men
 - a. Overcoming all the troubles of the past
 - b. Superior to all previous knowledge or wisdom
 - 3. But none of them require submission to Christ as the pivotal solution to man's problems!
 - a. No denial of self
 - b. No bearing of a cross
 - c. No following of the only Christ who can save
 - 4. Mixed with Christ
 - a. My library
- d. v. 9-10 – Why Christ is so valuable
 - i. Who He is (v. 9) – He is the fullness of deity
 - ii. What He does (v. 10)
 - 1. He completes us
 - a. He is filled with deity
 - b. We are filled by Him
 - i. Emptied of the guilt of sin
 - ii. Filled with righteousness
 - iii. Emptied of empty deception
 - iv. Filled with the knowledge of God
 - v. Emptied of our pride and shame
 - vi. Filled with humility and glory
 - 2. He rules over all rulers
 - a. That the trouble with committing ourselves to worldly authorities
 - i. They are all under Christ

