

Colossians 2:6-15 – Complete in Christ

(Salvation = Jesus + Nothing)

- 6-7 Walking in Christ, Rooted & Built Up in Christ**
- 8 Don't be Captivated with Worldly Philosophy**
- 9-10 Jesus is Completely God, We are Complete in Him**
- 11 Spiritually Circumcised in Christ**
- 12-13 Buried With Him, Raised With Him, Made Alive in Him**
- 14 Jesus Paid our Debt to the Law on the Cross**
- 15 Jesus Triumphantly Defeats Evil Powers**

Introduction

- Illustration: In 1821 after fighting in the Napoleonic Wars and for Venezuelan independence Scottish soldier Gregor McGregor came back to Britain claiming to be ruler of the Central American country of Poyias. Located on the Mosquito Coast in modern day Honduras. It was apparently a fertile and civilized land, with the capital city of St. Joseph having population of 20,000. Over the next few months he wrote a constitution, established consular offices in London, had songs composed and a book written praising the virtues of this promised land. He had a bank underwrite a 200,000 pound loan, and he began selling land certificates and Poyaisian government bonds at reasonable prices. People jumped at these investment opportunities, by 1822 there were 7 ships worth of people who bought land and wanted to emigrate to make a new life in this promised land. The first ship reached the Honduran coast in November 1822, to find instead of a bustling modern town, just miles of untouched jungle. There was no country of Poyais, no civilization, it was all a lie, a fraud, they had been conned. Unfortunately this con was also deadly, the 'immigrants' had inadequate supplies and no skills to survive in the jungle. Of the 250 or so people who sailed to Poyais about 180 died of disease and malnutrition, less than 50 people made it back to Britain, their hopes of a new life utterly destroyed.

- unfortunately people in world make living deceiving other people
- living in increasingly false world, harder tell what's true or false
- fake news, counterfeit products, phishing scams, fake meat burgers
- church not immune, those deceive believers, lead astray from true faith in Jesus
- situation Paul dealing with in Colossians, why wrote letter
- doesn't write what's wrong with false teaching, just points to supremacy of Jesus
- passage gives seven 'in Him/with Him' statements, two 'He has' proclamations
- don't need anything other than Jesus, we're complete in Him

6-7 Walking in Christ, Rooted & Built Up in Christ

Colossians 2:6-7 - Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

- what's therefor, there for, link to previous passage
- Paul prays that Colossians fully know Christ, loving one another, rejoicing in their faith
- now sets up this passage, exhortation, as received Christ, so continue, how received?
- heard good news of Jesus, Son of God, died on the cross for our sins, rose again
- believed the message, repented of sins, received Jesus as Lord, by grace, through faith
- this is how we came to know Jesus, why would continuing to know him be different
- walking, has meaning of how conduct one's self, how live out faith, how we follow after
- essential be rooted in Jesus, grounded in, strong foundation, essential to house

1 Corinthians 3:10-11 - According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it.

For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

- Are we building on the right foundation? How are we building our own spiritual house?
- When the storms of life and winds of false teaching assail, will our house stand?

8 Don't be Captivated with Worldly Philosophy

Colossians 2:8 - See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.

- Paul warns Colossians (and us) to not be seduced by worldly ideas & teachings
- taken captive, plundered, taken as spoil of war, deadly serious, war for our souls
- people coming in to church, promoting false teaching, likely early Gnosticism

- Gnosticism, syncretized eastern spirituality, near east mysticism, Greek philosophy
- trying add Christianity in to the mix, subtly twist it fit their lie
- make seem plausible, logical to our fallen human nature, know how bait the hook
- promised hidden levels of knowledge, keep following, we love secrets, knowing more
- previously Col. 2:3, all wisdom & knowledge reside in Jesus, he knows it all
- if desire wisdom & knowledge, desire to know Jesus more, don't need to go elsewhere
- don't need revelation of new truth, need God's revealed truth to newly impact our hearts
- how we guard against falling captive to error, knowing truth more
- previous pastor's wife, bank teller, trained study real bills, easier to spot the counterfeit

9-10 Jesus is Completely God, We are Complete in Him

Colossians 2:9-10 - For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.

- Paul again refuting Gnostic teachings, points to truth of Jesus, his nature
- Gnosticism teaches battle between good evil, all matter evil, only spirit good
- believed Jesus being good, couldn't have come in the flesh, only was a spirit
- a core Christian doctrine is that Jesus is fully God & fully man, (hypostatic union)
- Jesus God the Son took on flesh, to be like us, yet without sin, to be the perfect spotless lamb to die for our sins on the cross, and in His power to rise again, defeating sin & death

Hebrews 2:17, 4:15 - Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

- more amazing, we are completely filled in him, creator God of the universe, living in us
- are being made complete, he will complete his good work in us, thank the Lord, Amen!
- hinge verses of passage, we need nothing other than Jesus, don't add or subtract

11 Spiritually Circumcised in Christ

Colossians 2:11 - In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ,

- Paul addressing second false teaching in Colossae, Judaistic legalism
- Jewish believers who taught Christians must additionally follow all Old Testament laws

- especially made a big deal about circumcision of Gentile converts
- originally sign to nation of Israel, set apart for God to be his holy people
- symbolized purity, holiness and grace
- Paul says we are spiritually circumcised in Jesus, points to work of the Holy Spirit
- The Holy Spirit purifies our hearts, convicts us of sin & empowers us to resist it
- through the Holy Spirit living in us, we are made holy, set apart for him
- we are sealed with the Holy Spirit, a guarantee of God's blessing & favour in heaven
- not to fall into legalism, no outward observances can bring about an inward change,
- no human effort can add on to Jesus work of salvation, he's done it all, just thank him

12-13 Buried With Him, Raised With Him, Made Alive in Him

Colossians 2:12-13 - having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses,

- Paul shows how baptism symbolizes and parallels Jesus death & resurrection
- water symbol of death & the grave, going under water, death of the old sinful nature
- Jesus death on the cross put to death the penalty of sin and the power of sin over us
- rising up from the water symbolises Jesus rising from the grave
- the power of Holy Spirit who raised Jesus, works in us, gives us new life in Christ
- we were spiritually dead in our sins, corrupted, alienated from God, under his wrath
- when we repent & believe by faith in Jesus' atoning sacrifice for our sin, in his mercy and grace God forgives us, cleanses us and makes us spiritually alive in him
- we also have eternal life in Jesus and share in his resurrected nature
- one day we will have new glorified resurrected bodies and live forever in heaven, Amen

14 Jesus Paid our Debt to the Law on the Cross

Colossians 2:14 - by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

- Paul summarizes the passage with two 'He has' statements, closing his case
- the first is the declaration that Jesus has paid our sin debt on the cross
- the image is of a legal notice of debt demanding payment, usually nailed to your door

- anyone who's gone through debt collection would understand
- the debt is our sin and the payment is death, (*Romans 6:23, the wages of sin is death*)
- image, Jesus instead takes the notice and holds it in his hand as he's nailed to the cross
- as his precious blood spills over the paper, it spells out the words, 'PAID IN FULL'
- this is what the cross means, what Jesus has done for us because of his great love
- Jesus perfectly fulfilled every requirement of the law, that we never could
- the law was to train a people in God's holy standards and ultimately point to Jesus
- it need not have any power over us, we are not under judgement of the law
- we want to obey his commandments & please the Lord, but out of love not fear

15 Jesus Triumphantly Defeats Evil Powers

Colossians 2:15 - He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

- we need not fear any evil or demonic power either, Jesus has triumphed over them
- Satan and the demons thought the cross was the end of Jesus, that they had won
- totally the opposite, it was a the greatest victory that had ever been & will be
- God wasn't surprised, this was the plan all along
- when Jesus rose after 3 days, the evil powers were completely nullified, defeated
- they still can cause trouble, Jesus has given them limited power for a while
- he stands in victory over them, he is infinitely greater
- as face battles in our lives we have confidence can stand in his mighty strength
- putting on his spiritual armor, and overcoming with the weapons of his word and prayer

Conclusion

- Jesus is our strong foundation, we can completely trust in him & build our lives on him
- Jesus in source of all true wisdom & knowledge, all we need to know is complete in him
- Jesus has completely finished the work of salvation in the cross, we are complete in him
- Jesus has completely defeated the power of sin & death, we are complete in him
- Jesus completely fulfilled the law & taken it's punishment for us, we are complete in him
- Jesus has completely triumphed over evil, we can completely triumph in his name
- now & not yet, positionally, practically, confident he will complete his good work in us