

## Colossians 2: 6-10 | Complete in Christ

Paul's letter to the Colossians is all about Christ. He mixes doctrine with practical Christian living, as is typical of most of his letters. Colossians is about the greatness of Christ.

Colossians is one of three epistles dealing with the church as the Body of Christ. Ephesians considers the body under the headship of Christ, Colossians considers the head (Christ) and its relationship to the body, and Philippians considers the members of the body in relation to one another. (C.R. Stam)

In chapter one we see what Christ has done:

1. He created all things (1:16)
2. He sustains all things (1:17)
3. He will reconcile all things (1:20)

It is chapter two we want to focus on today— specially verses 13, 14, and 15 where we will see our completeness in Christ come to life, and the freedom we have in him. But let's get some context beginning with chapter 2:8.

Verse 8

**Beware lest any man spoil you.** The word **beware** is the Greek word **βλέπω**, *blepo* which means *look and see* or, to *be aware*. **Spoil** means to *carry away*. Paul writes a long list of the things to watch out for so we do not get *carried away*.

**Philosophy**, the Greek word is **φιλοσοφία** **philosophia** and it is the only time the word is used in the Bible. It is used here in the negative sense. In essence it is the love of wisdom (sophia). Paul says philosophy is **vain deceit** or *empty deception*. Often this misguided **philosophy** comes from the **traditions of men**, we must **beware** even if the traditions come from a church or denomination. There is nothing inherently wrong with traditions, but if they are founded in the **rudiments of the world**, or the principles of the world, and not **after Christ** we must reject them.

One such **tradition** is that *"God is not finished with me yet."* You've heard that said, maybe said it yourself. There is a perception among Christians that we are a work in progress. No doubt it stems from a misunderstanding of Philippians 1:6:

*"Being confident in this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."*

Because we have heard this repeated so often, we have always thought it applies to us. But is it true?

The key to this verse is the phrase *this very thing*. It refers back to verse 5 where Paul is commending the Colossians for their *fellowship (or contribution) in the gospel*. *He which hath begun a good work in you* is referring to the Church at Philippi. The **you** is plural. This church had been instrumental in financially supporting the apostle Paul in his ministry. This church was the only church which communicated with and supported financially the efforts of Paul to spread the

Gospel (Philippians 4:15). The verse is about the generosity of the Colossians. That church's **good work** which Paul is certain of, will continue **until the day of Christ**.

To make this verse apply to you and me, we have to take it out of its context. This is one of the philosophies Paul instructs us to beware of; the philosophy of "Me." To say God is not finished with me yet doesn't appear to be found in Scripture, in fact, because of superiority and completeness of Jesus Christ, just the opposite is true as we will see.

Verse 9–

The reason for rejecting the traditions of men and instead embracing Christ's truth is that in Jesus Christ **dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily**. Simply put, *He is all we need*. He is fully God and fully man.

Verse 10–

Because of Christ's fullness and because we are *in Christ* (Colossians 1:2), God *is* finished with us—**ye are complete in him**. This is an unbelievable concept; So much so that many churches don't believe it. Many today claim we are only complete in our own personal holiness, or our own righteousness. Yet our completeness comes from nothing we do ourselves. Our completeness can be trusted because Christ is **head of all principality**—that's the Greek word *arche*, meaning *beginning* and **power** means *authority*. We are complete in Christ because he has all authority from the beginning to complete us!