

# THE PREEMINENCE OF CHRIST

## The Fullness of Deity Dwelling in Christ

### *Keeping the Faith*

Colossians 2: 4-10a

**Introduction:** The section for our consideration today is a transition between Paul's general introduction to the letter and the main points he wishes to specifically cover regarding the dangers of the false teaching and philosophies. It is an important summary of the supremacy of Jesus Christ and the need to keep our focus completely and exclusively upon Him.

#### I. Plausible Arguments—Perilous Pitfalls

- A. "I say this that no one may delude you with plausible arguments" (v4), "See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception" (v8)
- B. The dangers that threatened the Colossians were not ridiculous cultic practices or hideous pagan rituals—they were reasonable sounding, socially acceptable ideas embraced by the educated and scholarly community—and they threatened to shipwreck the faith of followers of Jesus Christ.
- C. The dangers the church faces today are equally not ridiculous and hideous practices, but reasonable sounding ideologies that are generally accepted by the academic community and the population in general:
  1. Moralistic guidelines for accomplishing good behavior (legalism)
  2. Evolutionary hypotheses undermining Biblical authority
  3. Holistic and mental health modalities that fail to recognize our real problem or the real cure.
  4. Existential (experience based rather than doctrine based) spirituality including dangerous spiritual practices and fleshly indulgence

#### II. The Supremacy of Christ Jesus the Lord for ALL Things (Verses 3, 6, 9-10a)

- A. All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are in Him
- B. He is the embodiment of all true faith (v. 6—Unique Title)
- C. All of God is in Him and in Him we have been made COMPLETE

#### III. So Walk in Him (Verse 6-7)

- A. Firmly rooted (past, passive)
- B. Now being built up (present, passive)
- C. Established in your faith (present-future, passive)

*For I want you to know how great a struggle I have on your behalf and for those who are at Laodicea, and for all those who have not personally seen my face, <sup>2</sup> that their hearts may be encouraged, having been knit together in love, and attaining to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, resulting in a true knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ Himself, <sup>3</sup> in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. <sup>4</sup> I say this so that no one will delude you with persuasive argument. <sup>5</sup> For even though I am absent in body, nevertheless I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good discipline and the stability of your faith in Christ. <sup>6</sup> Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, <sup>7</sup> having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.*

Colossians 2: 1-7  
(NASB)

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- 1.) How does Satan use the tool of a “plausible argument” to deceive the church? How does that method of appeal ever take root among true believers? Can you think of modern day examples? What do they look like?
- 2.) How are believers, as Paul warns in verse eight, “taken captive through philosophy and empty deception” (e.g., how does Satan ever succeed in appealing to born again believers who should know better)?
- 3.) Elaborate on some of the modern day pitfalls that Pastor Paul described in paragraph I. C., items 1 through 4. How does the enemy of our soul use these philosophies to deceive us?
- 4.) In effect, what was the Apostle Paul saying when he made the following statements about Jesus Christ (i.e., what were the purpose of his statements)?
  - In whom [Christ] are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge (v. 3)
  - He is the embodiment of all truth and faith (v. 9)
  - All the fullness of God dwells in Him and in Him we have been made complete (v. 10)
  - He is head over all rule and authority (v. 10)
- 5.) If Jesus Christ is all of the things above that the Apostle Paul claims, what then are we instructed to do? Explain why and how we should do this.
- 6.) What is the significance of the Greek grammar tense and voice in verse 7 (i.e., that we need to be firmly rooted, built up, and established in our faith)?

**NOTES**

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