

Colossians 2 - Danger: Christ's Preeminence Defended; The Sufficiency of Christ; Steadfast in the Faith; Kosher Laws; Sunday vs Sabbath; Astrology

I. Supremacy of Christ (Col 1:1—2:23)

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Colossians 2

- (D) Education in Christ (2:1-5)
 - (a) Paul's sufferings (2:1)
 - 1 For I want you to know how great a struggle I have in your behalf and for those who are at Laodicea, and for all those who have not personally seen my face,
 - 1 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,
 - 1 For I want you to know how much I struggle for you, for those in Laodicea, and for all who have never seen me face to face.
 - 1 For I would that ye knew what great conflict I have for you, and for them at Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh;
 - (b) Full wisdom available in Christ (2:2-3)
 - 2 that their hearts may be encouraged, having been knit together in love, and *that they would attain* 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,*
 - 2 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,*
 - 2 Because they are united in love, I pray that their hearts may be encouraged by all the riches that come from a complete understanding of the full knowledge of the Messiah, who is the mystery of God.
 - 2 That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of

the Father, and of Christ;

- 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.
- 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.
- 3 In him are stored all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.
- 3 In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

(c) Christ's wisdom is superior to alternative sources (2:4)

- 4 I say this so that no one will deceive you with persuasive arguments.
- 4 I say this so that no one will delude you with persuasive argument.
- 4 I say this so that no one will mislead you with nice-sounding rhetoric.
- 4 And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words.

(d) Paul rejoices that the Colossians have faith in Christ (2:5)

- 5 For even though I am absent in body, I am nevertheless with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your orderly manner and the stability of your faith in Christ.
- 5 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.
- 5 For although I am physically absent, I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see how stable you are and how firm your faith in the Messiah is.
- 5 For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.

(E) Exhortation to live in Christ (2:6-7)

(a) Walk by faith (2:6)

- 6 Therefore, as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,
- 6 Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,
- 6 So then, just as you have received the Messiah Jesus the Lord, continue to live dependent on him.
- 6 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:

(b) Remain steadfast (2:7a)

(c) Be doctrinally established (2:7b)

(d) Be grateful (2:7c)

- 7 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.
- 7 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.

7 For you have been rooted in him and are being built up and strengthened in the faith, just as you were taught, while you continue to be thankful.

7 Rooted and built up in him, and established in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

(3) Direct polemic against the Colossian heresy (2:8-23)

(A) Philosophy (2:8-10)

(a) Warning against competing philosophies (2:8)

8 See to it that there is no one who takes you captive through **philosophy** and empty deception in accordance with human tradition, in accordance with the elementary principles of the world, rather than in accordance with Christ.

8 See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.

8 See to it that no one enslaves you through philosophy and empty deceit according to human tradition, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to the Messiah,

8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

- "...philosophy" - man made

-- The result of being taken captive by man made philosophy is that you are held hostage to something that is not true

-- If you are taken captive by philosophy, it's like going back to kindergarten. You think your philosophy is brilliant, but in reality you have exchanged the depth and truth of Christ with something that is false

(b) Christ is full deity (2:9)

9 For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form,

9 For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form,

9 because all the essence of deity inhabits him in bodily form.

9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

(c) We are complete in Christ (2:10a)

(d) Christ his head over all (2:10b)

10 and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over every ruler and authority;

10 and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority;

10 And you have been filled by him, who is the head of every ruler and authority.

10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

(B) Legalism (2:11-17)

(a) Believers have experienced the spiritual circumcision (2:11)

11 and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision performed without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ,

11 and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ;

11 In union with him you were also circumcised with a circumcision performed without human hands by stripping off the corrupt nature by the circumcision performed by the Messiah.

11 In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:

(b) Believers are identified with Christ's death, burial and resurrection (2:12)

12 having been buried with Him in **baptism**, in which you were also raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

12 having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

12 When you were buried with the Messiah in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.

12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

- "...baptism" - refers to Spirit baptism, not water baptism

— Every time you see the word "baptism" in the Bible, it's not always speaking of water baptism. This is where many get confused on these two passages, thinking that the reference to "baptism" in these verses refers to water baptism. It does not. Baptism in both passages refers to Spirit baptism (1 Cor 12:13). Water baptism symbolizes our Spirit baptism, which happens automatically at the moment of belief.

— When a person is saved, he is immediately baptized by the Spirit into the body of Christ (1 Cor 12:12-13). Whatever happened to Christ is imputed to us, "through faith in the operation of God."

— Paul connects Spirit baptism with the burial and resurrection of Christ

— See [Holy Spirit](#) for a complete explanation of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

(c) Believers have been made alive (2:13a)

(d) Believers have been forgiven (2:13b)

13 And when you were dead in your wrongdoings and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us **all** our wrongdoings,

13 When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions,

13 Even when you were dead because of your offenses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with him when he forgave us all of our offenses,

13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

- "...all" - *pas*, literally means "each, every, any and all." Jesus agreed to accept the full punishment that was due us so that all the charges against us could be dropped and we could escape the death sentence.

-- Jesus made it possible for our Father in heaven to exclaim, "My children were dead and are alive again!" (Cf. Luke 15:32)

-- His act of sacrifice wasn't only retroactive, paying back for all the sins of our pre-Christian lives. It was also proactive, paying forward for all the sins we'll commit for the rest of our lives too, because "by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy" (Heb 10:14).

-- He clothed Himself in our sin once so we could be clothed in His righteousness forever (2 Cor 5:21)

(e) The condemnation of the Law has been canceled (2:14)

14 having canceled the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

14 having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

14 having erased the charges that were brought against us, along with their obligations that were hostile to us. He took those charges away when he nailed them to the cross.

14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

(f) The power of the demonic world has been canceled (2:15)

15 When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display *of them*, having triumphed over them through Him.

15 When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.

15 And when he had disarmed the rulers and the authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in the cross.

15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

(g) Believers are not to be judged according to feast and food laws (2:16)

16 Therefore, no one is to act as your judge in regard to food and drink, or in respect to a festival or a new moon, or a Sabbath day—

16 Therefore no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day—

16 Therefore, let no one judge you in matters of food and drink or with respect to a festival, a New Moon, or Sabbath days.

16 Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:

(h) The law is only a shadow (2:17)

17 things which are *only* a shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ.

17 things which are a *mere* shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ.

17 These are a shadow of the things to come, but the reality belongs to the Messiah.

17 Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.

(C) Mysticism (2:18-19)

(a) The warning (2:18a)

(b) The false doctrine: angel worship (2:18b)

(c) Problems with angel worship (2:18c-19)

(i) Pride (2:18c)

18 *Take care that* no one keeps defrauding you of your prize by delighting in humility and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on *visions* he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind,

18 Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on *visions* he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind,

18 Let no one who delights in humility and the worship of angels cheat you out of the prize by rejoicing about what he has seen. Such a person is puffed up for no reason by his carnal mind.

18 Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,

(ii) Devaluation of Christ's headship (2:19)

19 and not holding firmly to the head, from whom the entire body, being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments, grows with a growth which is from God.

19 and not holding fast to the head, from whom the entire body, being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments, grows with a growth which is from God.

19 He does not hold on to the head, from whom the whole body, which is nourished and held together by its joints and ligaments, grows as God enables it.

19 And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God.

(D) Asceticism (2:20-23)

(a) If believers have already died with Christ then why submit to asceticism?

(2:20)

20 If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees, *such as*,

20 If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees, *such as*,

20 If you have died with the Messiah to the basic principles of the world, why are you submitting to its decrees as though you still lived in the world?

20 Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances,

(b) Description of asceticism (2:21-22)

21 "Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!"

21 "Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!"

21 "Don't handle this! Don't taste or touch that!"

21 (Touch not; taste not; handle not;

22 (which all *referto* things destined to perish with use)—in accordance with the commandments and teachings of man?

22 (which all *referto* things destined to perish with use)—in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men?

22 All of these things will be destroyed as they are used, because they are based on human commands and teachings.

22 Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men?

(c) Despite having the appearance of wisdom asceticism has no power to curb the sin nature (2:23)

23 These are matters which do have the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and humility and severe treatment of the body, *but are* of no value against fleshly indulgence.

23 These are matters which have, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self-abasement and severe treatment of the body, *but are* of no value against

fleshly indulgence.

23 These things have the appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion, humility, and harsh treatment of the body, but they have no value against self-indulgence.

23 Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh.