



"The Antidote to Error: Christ in All His Fullness"

Colossians 2:6-15

Sermon Date: October 25, 2009

Prayer:

This week's Scripture passage contains a beautiful description of the multi-faceted work of redemption God completed in Christ Jesus. Read through the passage (paying particular attention to verses 9-15) and thank the Father for all the wonderful expressions of His Salvation you see there. Ask Him for a humble and thankful heart which will be open to learning about, and walking with, Christ.

Review:

Please re-read Colossians 1:21-2:5

The past few weeks, we have been looking at the person of Jesus Christ and His position as the preeminent ruler over all Creation and as the Reconciler of man to a Holy God. Last week we looked at the mission of Paul and his concern for the Colossian church. This week we will look at how we can remain free from the imprisonment of error found in false doctrine by staying true to the person and work of Jesus Christ, just as Paul encouraged the Colossian church to do.

Scripture:

Colossians 2:6-15 (ESV) *"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. 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. 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. 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, 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, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him."*

Hermeneutics: *(the art and science of studying the Bible)*

A good Bible dictionary and commentary can be very helpful as you study the word. Some good online tools for your study can be found at <http://www.blueletterbible.org/index.cfm>.

1. Read Colossians 2:6-23. This reading contains our passage for the week and places it in the stream of a longer argument Paul gives concerning the erroneous teaching the Colossian believers were facing. Read this passage slowly and deliberately three times and pay special attention to how Paul's train of thought develops. Write down certain words or phrases which are repeated.

2. Verse 6 begins with the word "Therefore..." Briefly summarize what Paul is referring back to by beginning this way. In other words, what is the "therefore" there for? What is it pointing back to?

3. Verses 6 through 8 contain several words or phrases describing our growth in Christ. Using a Bible dictionary, commentary, or other appropriate tools, define what these mean. To further increase your understanding of these words, list two other places where these words or phrases are used. (Try to find one of these in the Pauline epistles.)

walk:

rooted:

built up:

captive:

philosophy:

empty deceit:

5. The phrases "in Him" and "with Him" appear in this section 9 times. Find each of them, list the verse, and what is linked to each appearance.

In Him (v.____):

In Him (v.____):

In Him (v.____):

In Him (v.____):

In Him (v.____):

With Him (v.____):

With Him (v.____):

With Him (v.____):

In Him (v.____):

6. Re-read the passage. Given what you've learned, write a **ten word** summary of this passage.

Handling the Word:

Our passage can be divided into three parts.

I. Exhortation to Continue Growing - 2:6-7

II. Warning Against Error - 2:8

III. Christ the Antidote to Error - 2:9-15

I. Exhortation to Continue Growing - Colossians 2:6-7

1. *"Therefore, as you **received** Christ Jesus the Lord..."*(v.6). Christ uses the word "received" to signify that his readers had already trusted Christ for their salvation. Why must those who receive Christ continue to *walk* in Him? (Col. 1:10; 1 Thess. 4:1; 1 John 2:5b-6)

2. In the context of these verses (vv.6-15), and in all aspects of our Christian lives, why is important for us to be *"rooted and built up in him and established in the faith"*(v.7)? (Eph. 2:19-22 and 3:17-19; Acts 20:32)

II. Warning Against Error – Colossians 2:8

3. Can believers really be made *"captive by philosophy and empty deceit"* (Romans 7:6,23; 2 Cor. 10:5; Gal. 3:23)? Who attempts to make us captive (1 Pet. 5:8; James 1:13-15)?

4. Although we don't know precisely what false teaching plagued the Colossian believers, we may identify some aspects of it through our study. Using the themes of the letter, our passage, and its surrounding context, try to identify as much of the false teaching as you can.

III. Christ the Antidote to Error – Colossians 2:9-15

5. In this part of our passage, Paul beautifully lays out a multi-faceted picture of God's redemptive work in Christ. What is significant in each of these ideas?

"...you have been filled in him..."(v.10) -

"...who were dead in your trespasses..."(v.13) -

"...canceling the record of debt..."(v.14) –

6. How is the recounting of Christ's redemptive work (vv.9-15) an antidote to error? Why does Paul use that method to counter the error?

Application:

1. In this passage, we've been called to "*walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving*". How does your life reflect this exhortation? How will what you've learned affect your desire to be rooted, built up, and established?

2. What have you learned that will lead you to be **more** "*abounding in thankfulness*"?

3. Are there philosophies and empty deceit which attempt to take you captive? What three things are you going to do, beginning today, to be "*filled in him*" and not be susceptible to these?

4. What are the human traditions Christians fall prey to in our world? What is so appealing about them? How can you combat these traditions from taking hold in your life?

5. Have you been held captive to some empty deceit in your life - something that was contrary to Christ? Were you freed from that bondage and made free in Christ? Please prayerfully consider encouraging the members of your Home Group with your story.