

Colossians 2:1-10 - To Fully Know Christ

In order that they may ***know*** the mystery of God, ***namely, Christ***

Col 2:1-2 NIV I want you to know how hard I am contending for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally. 2 My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, ***so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ***

- EPIGNOSIS - To know him fully [in the Greek - a full, perfect, precise knowledge]
 - It is a knowledge, more than intellectual understanding, but where the knower takes an ***active participation in the truth stemming from their knowledge***
 - In other words...***this [epignosis] controls & directs our behavior*** ... It is knowing Jesus in such a way as it changes my life

Rejecting the knowledge of God led to a depraved mind and action that should not be done

- Rom 1:28 NIV Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, ***so that they do what ought not to be done.***

Some constantly learn, but never come to the knowledge of the truth

- 2Ti 3:7 NIV always learning but ***never able to come to a knowledge of the truth***

Everything we need through the knowledge of Him

- 2Pe 1:2-3 NIV ***Grace and peace be yours in abundance*** through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. (3) His divine power has given us ***everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge*** of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

It comes from Him

- Eph 1:17 NIV I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, ***so that you may know him better.***

It is a life-long pursuit to know Him more intimately

- Php 3:8-10 ESV Indeed, I count everything as loss because of ***the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.*** For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ (9) and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith-- (10) ***that I may know him*** and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,

Intimate knowledge

Luk 1:34 KJV Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, ***seeing I know not a man?***

In [Christ] whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge

Col 2:3-5 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. 4 I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments. 5 For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how disciplined you are and how firm your faith in Christ is.

Have I come to the place where I believe this?

- All treasure of wisdom and knowledge are in Him?
- Prov 4:7 - wisdom is the principle thing...[but where do I derive my wisdom?]

Man's wisdom, the wisdom of the world, the wisdom of God

- 1Co 1:20-27 NIV Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? *Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?* 21 For since in ***the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom*** did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. 22 Jews demand signs and *Greeks look for wisdom*, 23 but we preach *Christ* crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and *foolishness to Gentiles*, 24 but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, ***Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God***. 25 For the ***foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom***, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength. 26 Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were ***wise by human standards***; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the ***wise***; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.

Wisdom whether from heaven, earthly, unspiritual, demonic has practical outworking in my life

- Jas 3:13-18 NIV ***Who is wise*** and understanding among you? ***Let them show it by their good life***, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. 14 But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. 15 ***Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic***. 16 For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. 17 But the ***wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere***. 18 Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

God's Wisdom is tied to His Word and Obedience to it

- Mat 7:24-27 NIV "Therefore everyone who **hears** these words of mine and **puts them into practice** is ***like a wise man*** who built his house on the rock. (25) The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. (26) But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a ***foolish man*** who built his house on sand. (27) The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

Just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him

Col 2:6 So then, just as you received Christ Jesus **as Lord, continue to live your lives in him,** 7 rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. 8 See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.

- Received Him ***as Lord***
- Continue to Walk in Him
- Rooted - like a tree - speaks of stability
- Built up - like a building - speaks of stability
- **Strengthened in the faith** as you were taught...
- Overflowing with **thankfulness**

RECEIVING JESUS - To Take Near or to Associate With (paralambano)

- Matt 1:20...do not be afraid ***to take*** Mary home as your wife...

AS LORD...continue to live your lives *in HIM - WALK*

- The Christian Life Comes by ***Receiving*** Him and is ***Sustained*** as we Continue in Him
- Col 1:22-23 NIV But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation-- (23) ***if you continue in your faith,***
- Joh 6:66 KJV From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.
- 1Jn 2:6 KJV He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.
- Col 3:4-8 NIV When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. 5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. 7 *You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived.* 8 **But now** you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.

In Christ you have been brought to fullness [i.e. you are complete in Him]

9 For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, 10 and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority.

IN CHRIST you have been brought to fullness **YOU ARE COMPLETE IN HIM**

- to make replete, that is, (literally) to cram (a net), level up (a hollow), or (figuratively) to furnish (or imbue, diffuse, influence), satisfy, execute (an office), finish (a period or task), verify (or coincide with a prediction), etc.: - accomplish, X after, (be) complete, end, expire, fill (up), fulfil, (be, make) full (come), fully preach, perfect, supply.
- Anything that is GOD is in Jesus
- We are complete in Him (there is nothing more we need for salvation)
- There is nothing I can add to what He has done
- What can you do to improve upon Him, His person or His work?
 - Jewish rituals?
 - Asceticism?
 - Human tradition or philosophy?

Application

- Find peace in our completeness in the finished work of Jesus Christ
 - Stop thinking there is something more you can do to bolster your salvation
- Beyond the completeness of the work of salvation - there is a very practical side of this - JESUS fills the EMPTINESS OF OUR SOUL
 - **Bruce Jenner - Caitlyn Jenner**

May we come to KNOW HIM

May we BELIEVE that ALL Treasures of WISDOM and knowledge are found in Him

May we continue to Walk under the LORDSHIP of Jesus

May we rest in the FULNESS of Christ - a Complete work of salvation - and He Completes me

Eph 3:16-19 NIV I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, (17) so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being **rooted** and **established** in love, (18) may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, (19) **and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.**