

# ***COLOSSIANS: Complete In Christ***

## Lesson 3

### The Christ In Whom We Are “Complete” (1:13 – 2:23)

#### Introduction

The bulk of Col. 1-2 describes the majesty of Jesus Christ. Paul has already mentioned the good accomplished by the Colossian saints (1:3-12). Yet, they needed to be reminded their blessings and achievements were only possible because of Christ. There might not be a more powerful description of the Deity of Christ than Col. 1:13 – 2:15.

But there is one more point the Christian shouldn't overlook. Because we are “complete in Christ,” we need not subject ourselves to man-made judgments (2:16-23). We answer to the infinite Christ... not to other finite & limited men.

1) What has God done for those who answer the gospel's call? (1:13a) Where does God place those who respond? (1:13b)

2) In 1:14-23, Paul begins to list some of the “blessings” of Christ or “accomplishments” achieved because we are His disciples. Using the spaces provided, comment on each one and provide additional N.T. passages to supplement your answers.

v. 14 \_\_\_\_\_  
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v. 15a \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

v. 15b \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

v. 16 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

v. 17a \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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v. 17b \_\_\_\_\_

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v. 18a \_\_\_\_\_

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v. 18b \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

vv. 19-23 \_\_\_\_\_

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- 3) How did Paul feel about his present sufferings in Rome? (1:24a; Phil. 1:12-18)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 4) What else does Paul say his present circumstances was accomplishing? (1:24b) How could this verse be misunderstood to teach something false? Consider Heb. 10:11-14 as a answer.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 5) Thought question: does the Christian suffer "with" Christ? (Rom. 8:12-17; 1 Pet. 2:19-24)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 6) What else does Paul state re: the "body" (church)? (1:25) What was the focus of Paul's ministry? (1:26-27a; Acts 9:15-16; Eph. 3:1-9)

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- 7) How does Paul “summarize” the essence of his ministry? (1:27b)
  
- 8) What did this “glorious hope” drive Paul to do? (1:28a) What was the goal of his preaching? (1:28b) How does Paul say this affected him? (1:29)
  
- 9) What personal example does he give re: his statement from 1:29? (2:1) What things does Paul specifically say he hoped to accomplish in his preaching? (2:2) Consider also these verses in your answer: Col. 2:19; 3:14; Eph. 4:13, 16.
  
- 10) How is Christ further described in 2:3?
  
- 11) Why did Paul feel the need to give this short exhortation? (2:4) What will it take to remain true to Christ? (2:5)
  
- 12) What is required of those who “receive Christ Jesus the Lord?” (2:6; 1:10) What “benefits” are for those who are in the Lord, and with what disposition? (2:7)
  
- 13) How does Paul repeat his concern expressed earlier in 2:4? (2:8)

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- 14) In 2:9-14, Paul presents 3 “in Him” statements that emphasize the superiority of Christ. Using the spaces provided, comment on each one and provide additional N.T. passages to supplement your answers.

v. 9 \_\_\_\_\_

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v. 10 \_\_\_\_\_

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vv. 11-14 \_\_\_\_\_

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- 15) Specifically, what does Paul reference in 2:14? *Thought question:* what do you think is the importance of the phrases “certificate of debt” and “taken out of the way...nailed it to the cross?”

- 16) Re: 2:14, how was the Law of Moses “against” or “hostile to” the Jews? (Gal. 3:10) To the Gentiles? (Eph. 2:11-13) To both Jews & Gentiles? (Eph. 2:14-18)

- 17) What else did Christ accomplish in His death? (2:15a) Who do you think are the “principalities & powers” [KJV] or “rulers & authorities” [NASV]? (Eph. 6:12) How did Jesus disarm them? (Heb. 2:14-15)

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- 18) How did Jesus eventually publicly triumph over His enemies? (2:15b; 2:12b; Acts 1:3; 2:22-24)
- 19) Be able to connect the “Therefore” in 2:16a to the previous context.
- 20) What is Paul’s exhortation in 2:16b? (cp. 2:14) What sort of teaching apparently was troubling the Christians in Colossae?
- 21) Rather than being a basis for judgment, what was the Law? (2:17a; Heb. 10:1) Be able to discuss the importance of a “shadow” in this regard.
- 22) What is the importance of the phrase “...what is to come?” (2:17a; Gal. 3:15-25) Where is the “substance?” (2:17b)

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- 23) Using the space below, list the other warnings Paul gives the Colossians re: those who would mislead them. **(2:18-23)** *[NOTE: some come from a Jewish perspective, some come from a Gentile perspective, and some might even be a mixture of both.]*