

Filled, Complete, Whole
(Week 5)
Because of the Sufficiency of Jesus

SMALL TALK

1. In what ways would you characterize yourself as permissive, and in what ways would you characterize yourself as strict?

VIEWPOINT

2. **READ Colossians 2:6-23.** How did Paul tell the Colossians to continue in Christ? (2:6-7) What false teaching was threatening this approach? (2:8, 11-12, 16-17, 20-23)
3. What did God already give believers? (2:10) How does this demonstrate that we need no religious ritual “shadows” (2:17) as “add ons” to the “substance” (2:17) we enjoy? What are the “shadows” the false teachers were insisting on?
4. Why do such humanly conceived additions appeal to many (vv. 18–19, 22–23)? Why are legalism and asceticism useless in making us spiritually mature or more complete in Christ (vv. 22–23)?

GETTING PERSONAL

5. Do you ever try to earn your salvation? Or God’s approval? What is wrong with this?
6. How can you more fully experience and celebrate your completeness in Christ?

PRACTICE!

7. What else struck you from your personal “Training in the Word” through Colossians this week?

December 5, 2021

Filled, Complete, Whole (Week 5) Because of the Sufficiency of Jesus

I can't think of a better way to prepare for Christmas than to focus on Jesus Supremacy and Sufficiency, and the amazing humility with which he delivers the fullness of everything we need!!!

*Colossians 2:6–10 (NIV) 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. 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.***

I. WALK in Christ

*Colossians 2:6 (NIV) So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to **live your lives in him**,*

The more literal translation of the words here for “live your lives in him” is to “walk in him”.

*Colossians 2:6 (ESV) Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, **so walk in him**,*

I think this is important because walking in Jesus is step by step. And a walk is a journey with a destination.

The emphasis here is that the way you continue to walk in him, is the same way you received him!!

Is there anything in your life that keeps you from living in the fullness of God's power?

As the Lord reveals things that need to change in your life, keep the four R's in mind.

1. **REPENT,**

Turn to God.

2. **RECEIVE**

Receive the infilling of God's Spirit.

3. **RESIST**

Resist the devil. How? Stand firm in faith, and draw near to God.

4. **REPLACE**

Replace your former way of life with God's way,
(More on this in Colossians 3)

In the same way you received Christ **as Lord**, continue your walk with him and in Him **as Lord**.

Billy Graham said:

No man can be said to be truly converted to Christ who has not bent his will to Christ. He may give intellectual assent to the claims of Christ and may have had emotional religious experiences; however, he is not truly converted until he has surrendered his will to Christ as Lord, Savior and Master.

Walk. Take steps every day, these 4 R steps.

What's your next step to walk in Christ?
What's keeping you from taking that step?

Walk in Him. He will walk in and through you. He is what you need.

II. Rooted and **FILLED**

*Colossians 2:7 (NIV) **rooted** and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and **overflowing** with thankfulness.*

Rooted! Don't be a tumbleweed, blown every which way.
Life without God is a life without any roots, and a life that is empty.
Who says life without God is meaningless and empty? Even scientists do.

An issue of the science magazine *New Scientist* asked several basic philosophical questions and attempted to give answers from a strictly scientific point of view. One of the questions was "What is the meaning of life?"

In trying to answer about the meaning of life, the author begins with what he believes is a bleak reality:

The harsh answer is "it has none." Your life may feel like a big deal to you, but it's actually a random blip of matter and energy in an uncaring and impersonal universe. When it ends, a few people will remember you for a while, but they will die too. Even if you make the history books, your contribution will soon be forgotten. Humans will go extinct; Earth and the sun will be destroyed. Eventually the universe itself will end. Against this appalling reality, how can a human life have any real meaning?

It makes me want to say sarcastically, "Have a wonderful day!" No wonder people are feeling empty and depressed. When they are not rooted to God in Christ, they are empty.

When you are rooted and filled, you are *overflowing with thankfulness*.

5 Gallon bucket ILLUSTRATION: If you have a five gallon bucket and you fill it, if you walk anywhere with that bucket filled, your legs and shoes are going to get wet and the trail behind you is going to get wet. Any seeds along the paths you walk regularly will be watered, possibly sprout, and grow! That's overflowing! God's blessing is given to you to bless beyond you. Walking with Christ is like that. You will be **overflowing** as you walk with Jesus! We are people who have every reason to be *overflowing with thankfulness* because we are filled!

What's your next step in becoming rooted and filled?
What's keeping you from taking that step?

III. Reject COUNTERFEITS

Colossians 2:8 (NIV) 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.

REFLECT:

Do you spend more time taking in philosophies of this world through the music you listen to, the shows you watch, the social media you take in, the world's take on news, than you do God's revealed truth, and Christ's worldview, and Christ's instructions?

Do you already know of something that has taken you captive, taking you away from Christ?

In **Colossians 2:9-10** Paul tells us about the sufficiency of Christ! He is the clear answer to everything you need.

° 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.

Colossians 2:10 (NLT) So you also are **complete** through your union with Christ, who is the head over every ruler and authority.

You need nothing else to be filled, complete, and whole!

But what does this "completeness" mean? It means that there is nothing lacking in a believer's relationship with God. God pours his love and power into believers, giving them fullness for this life and readying them for the life to come. **Believers need not look anywhere else...**

...Look around you. People are searching for something to give their lives a boost. Few people seem content ... A strange and often hard-to-identify emptiness gives most people an uneasy sense of incompleteness. But Christ fills the emptiness. We are complete in Christ.

Some days may not feel like it, but, in fact, in Jesus the emptiness is gone; the full power and presence of God has taken up residence in your mind and heart. You are a new person, equipped for life and satisfied in God.

Adapted from the Tyndale series commentary on Colossians.

Salvation by faith in Christ **sounds too easy** for many people.

- It sounded too easy to the false teachers trying to convince the Colossian Christians to add into the mix all the old outmoded rituals as if to save themselves. This is a deadly error! And this is what is addressed in the sentences that follow.
- **See “Talk It Over”**
- With religion, people think that they have done something to save themselves. **The Gospel is clear that this is NOT the way.**
- What Jesus did, is now doing, and will do for us, is what saves us!
- All we need to do is trust in Christ, and walk in Christ, and we will become deeply rooted in Christ!

**When you are ROOTED, And FILLED every DISTRACTION
LOSES ATTRACTION!!!**

Christ is MORE than SUFFICIENT!