


**Colossians 2:1-10<sup>1</sup>**  
**CHAPTER ONE REVIEW**

VERSE	WHO WE ARE IN JESUS AS SEEN IN CHAPTER ONE OF COLOSSIANS
2	Saints Faithful brethren
5	Hope laid up for us in heaven
6, 10	Fruitful
7	Full of faith and love
9	It is God's will that we be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding <u>so that</u> we will:
10	✓ Walk worthy of the Lord ✓ Please Him in <u>all</u> respects ✓ Bear fruit in <u>every</u> (same word as "all") good work ✓ Increase in the knowledge of God
11	Strengthened with <u>all</u> power according to <u>HIS</u> glorious might for the attaining of ✓ Attain <u>all</u> steadfastness ✓ Attain <u>all</u> patience
11-12	Joyously give thanks to the Father
12	<b>Qualified</b> us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light
13	<b>Rescued</b> from the domain of darkness <b>Transferred</b> into the kingdom of the Son of His love <b>Redeemed</b> (eternally) <b>Forgiven</b> (as part of our eternal redemption)
20	<b>Reconciled</b> to God through the blood of His CROSS <b>At peace</b> with God
21	<b>No longer</b> alienated and hostile in mind, nor engaged in evil deeds
22	<b>Reconciled</b> through His flesh through death <b>Holy</b> <b>Blameless</b> <b>Beyond Reproach</b>
26-27	<b>Recipients</b> of the mystery hidden from past ages and generations <b>Christ in us</b> , the hope of glory
28	<b>Complete</b> in Christ


VERSE	WHO JESUS IS AS SEEN IN CHAPTER ONE OF COLOSSIANS
15	The visible image of the invisible God ("If you've seen Me, you've seen the Father.") The first born/heir of all creation
16	Creator of all things All things created for Him
17	Before all things All things held together by Him
18	Head of the body, the church Beginning Firstborn from the dead Preeminent in everything
19	In Him all the fullness (of deity) dwells
20	The means by which (through his blood and his body) we are reconciled to the Father

<sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise noted, Bible verses are from the NKJV or NASB  
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## CHAPTER TWO

 ***1For 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. Although Paul is writing this letter from a Roman prison, his struggle here is likely an inward one. Even though he had not met the Colossians or Laodeceans personally, he was concerned about them. We know from context that he had heard of the false teaching there. He is likely talking about his prayers for them.<sup>2</sup>

 ***2that 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<sup>3</sup>, <sup>3</sup> in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.***

2. Paul is praying for them to be encouraged. **ENCOURAGED**. This word has the same root as the word used for the Holy Spirit as our comforter. Andrew Wommack in his Living Commentary makes this strong point:

*Paul longed for the Colossians to be comforted. This attitude is noticeably different than that of some ministers today. Many preachers delight in afflicting the body of Christ. This has happened so often that many Christians have been conditioned to it. They don't feel that they have really been to church unless they have had "their toes stepped on." The true ministry of the Holy Spirit is a ministry of comfort.*

3. From where does this encouragement come?
  - a. Having their hearts knit (held) together in love
  - b. Attaining to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding of God's mystery, that is Christ
  - c. It is in CHRIST that we find ALL the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.
  - d. Wommack's Commentary (above) continues:

*Paul's ministry produced love among the brethren. That is also noticeably different than many ministers today. Paul also gave the believers a revelation of Christ in them. What a difference! This was a powerful ministry of love and encouragement. Maybe that is one of the big reasons Paul had different results than many ministers today.*

4. Notice here that we are **encouraged** by our **FAITH in Jesus** and our **LOVE for one another** which knits us together.

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<sup>2</sup> Wuest writes, "The better translation is, "For I desire you to know." There is no optative of wishing here, just the plain indicative mode. Paul is imparting some information. "Conflict" is *agōn*, continuing the metaphor of 1:29 in the word "striving," *agōnizomai*. The noun refers to the arena of the contest to which *agōnizomai* in the preceding verse has reference. The conflict could be either outward or inward, fightings without or fears within. Here it is the inward struggle, the wrestling in prayer for the Colossian saints (Lightfoot).

<sup>3</sup> Scofield Reference Bible says of verse 2, "The best authorities omit "and of the Father, and of Christ." Thus, the verse would read, "resulting in a true knowledge of God's mystery". Wesley concurs, "Unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, unto the acknowledgment of the mystery of God - **That is, unto the fullest and clearest understanding and knowledge of the gospel.**" (boldface ours).

5. Our unity is not based on *agreement* with each other nor is it based on *conformity* to what a local leader requires. Our unity, that which knits us together in love, is our understanding of the mystery of God, who is Jesus Christ.

**Ephesians 4:11-16**

*And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup> till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; <sup>14</sup> that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, <sup>15</sup> but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— <sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.*

- a. Notice in the passage above that our unity is of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God. That is why God has given us apostles, prophets, evangelist, pastors, and teachers...to TEACH US sound doctrine about Jesus so that our faith will be grounded in Him and not tossed by those who lie in wait to deceive.
  - b. We teach/speak this truth in love. This is not about pointing out someone's personal faults, but showing the truth of the gospel.
  - c. Notice also that within this setting of teaching the truth in love, reference is again made to the body of Christ being knit together in love.
6. The "wealth" that comes...
- a. Wealth comes from a full assurance /confidence of understanding...
    - The gospel which is the power of God
    - The good news of His favor towards us
    - The good news of His righteousness credited to us
    - The good news of the great love with which He loves us
  - b. This wealth results in true knowledge of God's mystery; Christ Himself.
7. In JESUS are hidden all the treasure of wisdom and knowledge.

- a. The treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden FOR us not from us.

**1 Corinthians 1:30**

*But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption.*

*Expositors comments: "The force of this passage then is this: all, and not merely some of the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are contained in Christ; therefore the search for them outside of Him is doomed to failure. -Wuest*


 ***4I say this so that no one will delude you with persuasive argument.***

8. It is important to notice how closely this parallels with the passage in Ephesians 4:14 which says, "that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting".
9. Delude means to deceive.

*"Beguile"/delude logizomai, literally, "to reason alongside," thus, "to reckon wrong, to deceive by false reasoning, delude, to lead astray by false reasoning." "Enticing words"/Persuasive argument peithō, "to persuade," and logos, "word," thus, "persuasive words, speech adapted to persuade, discourse in which probable arguments are adduced"; in*

*a bad sense, "persuasiveness of speech, specious discourse leading others into error." - Wuest's*

- a. Anything that gets our focus off of Jesus and onto something else leads to deception.
- b. We don't like to acknowledge this, but there really are individuals who are **plotting to trick and deceive**. We want to think they are just ignorantly but innocently sharing what they believe to be the truth (though they are wrong). While there are people in that category, we must also be aware that there are deliberate deceivers.
  - What might be the motive for deliberately and knowingly deceiving? These are the prevalent reasons.
    - Fame: Being famous is a strong pull for many. With fame come idolization, adoration, validation and a sick sense of self-worth.
    - Power: Sadly, some like to have influence over the actions of others, gain political or religious clout, and the ability to manipulate people and situations for one's personal (or organizational) advantage.
    - Money: We don't have to go far to see this motivation in action. Religious empires have been built for the reasons above and for financial gain.
    - Lust: Usually behind the scenes, this is a strong motivation.
    - Mockery: There are those who are simply pretending to be Christians to make a mockery of being one.


 ***<sup>5</sup>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.***

10. The NASB's choice of "good discipline"<sup>4</sup> is curious. A better translation of this is "good order".

*"Order" is taxis, a military term speaking of an orderly array of soldiers. Paul wrote this from his prison in Rome where he had constant contact with soldiers. -Wuest*

**AMPLIFIED:** *For though I am away from you in body, yet I am with you in spirit, delighted at the sight of your [standing shoulder to shoulder in such] orderly array and the firmness and the solid front and steadfastness of your faith in Christ [that leaning of the entire human personality on Him in absolute trust and confidence in His power, wisdom, and goodness].*

- a. The use of the term "good discipline" here could be used by those who see the life of a Christian as a set of so-called "spiritual disciplines" as a means to motivate believers to be disciplined as part of pleasing God. However, this is speaking of the believers knit together in love standing together in unity around their faith in Jesus.

 ***<sup>6</sup>Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, <sup>7</sup>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.***

11. Often when someone comes to faith in Jesus, he/she will ask, "Now, what do I do?" Unfortunately, in most instances, the new born believer is given the **WRONG ANSWERS**. The new relationship they have found with Jesus begins to **INSTANTLY** turn into formula

living (instead of a Spirit-led life), law (instead of grace), and works (instead of faith). So, what should we be telling new believers about “what to do next”?

- a. **As you received Jesus, walk in Him.** In other words, you received Jesus by the grace of God through faith in Jesus. That is EXACTLY how we are supposed to live. Every aspect of our walk is by grace through faith.

**Galatians 3:2**

*This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith? <sup>3</sup>Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?*

*This is a simple principle that would stop a lot of error in the body of Christ if it were observed. We received Christ totally by putting faith in God's grace (see notes 17-18 at Eph 2:8). We didn't offer the Lord any holiness on our part but came "just as I am, without one plea." We hadn't been fasting or paying our tithes, reading the Word, or praying an hour each day, and yet we received the greatest miracle of all, which was the new birth (see note 2 at John 3:3).*

*Amazingly, after receiving Christ by faith, many fall back into the trap of thinking that after salvation they have to earn God's blessings by works. That is not walking in the same way that they received Christ. If we started by grace we should continue by grace. This is the point that Paul was making in Galatians 3:1-3.-AWLC<sup>5</sup>*

- b. **Having been firmly rooted in Him and being built up in Him.**

This means that we need to know who we are in Him, and what He has given us in Him. Sadly, many believers never discover who they are, but instead are taught who they are not, and what THEY need to do to become complete.


*"Rooted" is a perfect participle in the Greek text expressing an abiding result, "having been rooted with the present result that you are firmly anchored." "Built up" is a present participle, speaking of continuous action, "being constantly built up." Wuest's*

- c. **Be established in your faith; your faith in Jesus.**
- d. **Just as you were instructed:** This is referring to Epaphras who had been teaching them what he had learned from Paul.
- e. **Overflowing (super abounding in quantity or quality) with thanksgiving:** Ours is a life of thanksgiving for all He has done and is doing in us. We will spend eternity giving Him thanks.
- f. **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**  
*Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup> in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

**Revelation 7:12**

*"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honor and power and might, Be to our God forever and ever. Amen."*

*Thanksgiving is the sphere in which the abundance is manifested. -Wuest*

 <sup>8</sup>**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.**

**12. See to it: Beware**

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<sup>5</sup> AWLC- Andrew Wommack's Living Commentary  
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13. **“Take you captive” means to lead away as booty, that is, (figuratively) seduce: - spoil”.**  
 a. **Paul is not talking about being deceived by Satan. He is talking about being deceived/taken captive by human beings.**

*“Beware” is blepete, “Be constantly looking out, keep a watchful eye ever open.” Lightfoot says; “The form of the sentence is a measure of the imminence of the peril.” Expositors says; “The future indicative after mē (not) implies a more serious estimate of the danger than the subjunctive.” The Greek is, “Be ever on your guard lest there shall be anyone who spoils you.” “Spoil” is sulagōgeō, “to carry off booty, to carry off as a captive and slave.” Expositors translates, “lead you away as prey.” Vincent says: “The A.V., is ambiguous, and might be taken to mean corrupt or damage you.” -Wuest*

14. **Philosophy: Love of wisdom**

*The definition of the Greek word “PHILOSOPHIA,” which was translated “philosophy” here, is “Jewish sophistry” (Strong). The word “sophistry” means “plausible but faulty or misleading argumentation” (NAHD). This is describing systems of thought rather than just individual thoughts. In this specific instance, Paul is warning against the “law mentality” of the Old Testament versus the New Testament mentality of grace. -AWLC*

15. **Empty deception: Vain deceit (cheating); this is describing the philosophy<sup>6</sup>.**

16. **Tradition of men: Referring to the Jewish traditional law**

*“Tradition” is paradosis, “that which is handed down” from generation to generation. The phrase describes “philosophy” and “vain deceit.” Vincent says; “The term is especially appropriate to the Judaeo-Gnostic teachings in Colossae, which depended for their authority, not on ancient writings, but on tradition. The later mystical theology or metaphysic of the Jews was called Kabbala, literally meaning reception or received doctrines, tradition. -Wuest*

- a. **Most believers today are not deceived by Jewish traditions. However, there are multiple “Christian” traditions that are passed on from generation to generation.**
- **The idea that Jesus saved us, but we have to maintain our salvation through our right living.**
  - **“Positional” verses actual righteousness: The idea that Jesus gave us the ABILITY to be holy and righteous, but we are the ones who actually have to make ourselves holy and righteous.**
  - **The prescription of so-called “spiritual disciplines” as a means to right-standing with God, continued fellowship with God, and getting “more” of God. With this is the concept of “devotions” or “quiet time” requirements.**
  - **Multiple formulas for obtaining what we already have or becoming who we already are (healed, delivered, successful).**
  - **The belief that Jesus came to give us everlasting life, but that we could lose this salvation by sinning**
  - **The belief that sins are not forgiven unless they are acknowledged and confessed.**
  - **The idea that prophets, pastors, teachers, evangelists, apostles, or the “clergy”: are in many ways “above” the “laity”.**

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<sup>6</sup> Wuest  
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17. Elementary principles of the world

"Rudiments" is *stoicheia*, "rudimentary teachings," such as "ceremonialism, meats, drinks, washings, Essenic asceticism, pagan symbolic mysteries and initiatory rites – all belonged to a rudimentary moral stage" (Vincent). "World" is *kosmos*. Lightfoot defines; "belonging to the sphere of material and external things." -Wuest

- a. We often think of "the world" as sin. Here Paul is clearly referring to systems of belief and practice which do not line up with Jesus.

**ALL TOGETHER NOW**

*Amplified Bible (AMP)*

*See to it that no one carries you off as spoil or makes you yourselves captive by his so-called philosophy and intellectualism and vain deceit (idle fancies and plain nonsense), following human tradition (men's ideas of the material rather than the spiritual world), just crude notions following the rudimentary and elemental teachings of the universe and disregarding [the teachings of] Christ (the Messiah).*

 <sup>9</sup> ***For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form,***

18. **JESUS IS OUR FOCUS. IN JESUS DWELLS ALL THE FULLNESS OF GOD. JESUS IS OUR SALVATION. JESUS IS OUR REDEMPTION. JESUS IS THE ONE WE WORSHIP. JESUS IS THE ONE TO WHOM WE SPEAK PERSONALLY. JESUS, THE PERSON AND HIS GOOD NEWS, ARE WHAT WE TEACH.**

*Galatians 1:15*

*But when*

*God, who had set me apart even from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, was pleased <sup>16</sup>to reveal His Son in me so that I might preach Him among the Gentiles.*

19. **AND...We are IN JESUS.**

 <sup>10</sup> ***and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority;***

20. **IN JESUS, in the one in who all the fullness of deity dwells, we have been made complete<sup>7</sup>.**

- a. **Complete:** *plēroō*; to *make replete*, that is, (literally) to *cram* (a net), *level up* (a hollow), or (figuratively) to *furnish* (or *imbue, diffuse, influence*), *satisfy, finish* (a

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<sup>7</sup> "Are complete" is *plēroō*, the verbal form of our word *plērōma*. It is a participle in the perfect tense. Literally it is, "And you are in Him, having been filled full, with the present result that you are in a state of fullness." Paul says in Ephesians 3:19, "In order that you may be filled with all the fullness of God." Vincent says; "Not, *ye are made full in Him, but ye are in Him, made full*. In Him dwells the fullness; being in Him, ye are filled." Lightfoot says; "*Being fulfilled* with a direct reference to the preceding *plērōma*; 'your fullness comes from His fullness; His *plērōma* (fullness) is transfused into you by virtue of your incorporation in Him.' . . . Hence also the Church, as ideally regarded, is called the *plērōma* (fullness) of Christ because all His graces and energies are communicated to her." We must be careful to note that the fullness of God communicated to the saints does not consist of the divine essence which is alone possessed by Deity, but of such qualities as holiness, righteousness, and the like, as in Ephesians 3:19. Expositors says; "What Paul means is that in Christ they find the satisfaction of every spiritual want. It therefore follows of itself that they do not need the angelic powers. That Christ is the Head of every principality and power is a further reason why they should not seek to them. All they need they have in Christ." -Wuest

period or task), (be) complete, end, expire, fill (up), fulfill, (be, make) full (come), fully preach, perfect, supply.

*Recognition of our completeness in Christ is a tremendous safeguard against deception. Prior to salvation we are incomplete, and there is a constant striving in every person to satisfy that hunger. Through the new birth, we are now complete in Christ, and our hunger should only be for more revelation of what we already have in Christ. Total satisfaction with Christ disarms Satan's lies. A big part of all temptation is dissatisfaction. AWLC*

**John 6:35**

**And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.**

21. **JESUS is the head over all rule and authority.** We do NOT NEED TO nor should we seek after angelic powers (demons) or any other power BECAUSE Jesus is above them all and we are compete in Him.
22. **JESUS is our authority and above all others.**