

LET US FIX OUR EYES ON JESUS

The Emptiness of the World and the Fullness of Christ**Colossians 2:6–23**

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. Hebrews 12:2,3

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. Colossians 3:16

Day One: Read Colossians 2:6–23.

1. Choose a verse which would state the central theme of this section.

2. What does it mean for you to live “in Christ” as spoken in verse 9? (Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 3:16, 17)

3. Read the following verses and explain the effects of being “rooted and built up in Christ.” (Psalm 1:1–3; Psalm 52:8; Psalm 92:12–15)

4. Why is it important to be thankful?

Day Two: Read Colossians 2:6–8.

5. Think and describe some philosophies (current or historical) based on “human tradition and basic principles of this world.” What is hollow and deceptive about each of the philosophies you described?

6. Why did Paul warn the Colossians against being taken captive? Were you ever taken captive through a human tradition? If so what was the tradition and how were you taken captive by it?

Day Three: Read Colossians 2:9–12.

7. Use other words to describe the phrase, “in Christ all the fullness of Deity lives in bodily form.” (Hebrews 1:3a; John 14:9)

8. Why is Christ head over every power and authority? (Col 1:16)

9. What have you received from Christ? (vs. 10) What practical difference has this made in your life?

10. Circumcision was the sign of the covenant God gave to Abraham. (Genesis 17:3–7, 10, 11) What was the significance of circumcision?

11. Read Deuteronomy 30:6; Romans 2:28, 29 and Philippians 3:3. What do these verses explain about circumcision?

12. How is circumcision performed on a follower of Christ? (vss. 11–13)

Day Four: Read Colossians 2:13–19.

13. How did you make yourself presentable so God would make you alive in Christ? (vs. 13)

14. When we came alive through the death and resurrection of Christ, what was put to death (or canceled)? What reaction do you have as you meditate on this? (vs. 14)

15. What are the warnings given in verses 16 and 18?

16. After proclaiming such freeing truth, why does Paul immediately go to a warning?

Day Five: Read Colossians 2:20–23.

17. How is the rebuke in Galatians 4:8, 9 similar to the rebuke in Colossians 2:20, 21?

18. Why do followers of Christ continue to submit to the basic principles of this world? What is ultimately the result of following these principles? (vs. 22)

19. Verse 23 describes the deceptiveness of the basic principles of this world. Where does true wisdom, worship, and humility come from? (Galatians 6:14, Hebrews 12:28)

20. Consider the comparison of the fullness of Christ to the emptiness of the world. In your own life where do you see the fullness of Christ in all its strength and beauty?