

“Complete In Him”
Colossians 2:8-10

Introduction:

1. How Many Times In Your Life:
 - Have You Heard This Old Saying?
 - “An Ounce Of Prevention Is Worth A Pound Of Cure!”
 - Even Though You’ve Probably Heard This Adage Many Times:
 - How May Times Have You Applied It In Your Own Life & To Your Own Health?
 - Yet - Over & Over Again:
 - The Truth Of This Proverb:
 - Haunts Us As We Go Through Life!
 - Especially When We Think Of All The “Preventions” That We Could Have Taken:
 - But Didn’t, Until It Was Too Late!
2. Well - The Lord Knows Our Nature:
 - And Wants Us To Apply This Same Truth:
 - In Our Walk With Him As Well!
 - Especially When It Comes To The Temptations Of Sin & The Trials Of Error:
 - That Are All Around Us!
 - And This Is Why:
 - Paul Wrote The Verses That We Will Come To This Morning:
 - To The Colossian Church - Nearly Two Thousand Years Ago!
 - To Remind Them & Us - That “Prevention” Really Is The “Best Medicine” In Our Christian Lives As Well!
3. So - Let’s Turn Back In Our Bibles This Morning:
 - To Colossians 2 - Where - Paul Is Getting To:
 - The Very Heart Of The Reason:
 - Of Why He Wrote This Letter To The Colossians!
 - It Was Because:
 - He Cared For The Condition:
 - Of Those Christians!
 - And Because - There Was A Threat Of Error At Their Threshold - And If They Let It In
 - It Would Wreak Havoc In Their Young & Small Church!
4. So - There Are Two Key Commands:
 - That Paul Gives Them - And Us:
 - To Help “Prevent” Error From Invading & Infecting The Body Of Christ!
 - The First Command:
 - We Looked At Last Week:
 - From 2:6 - Where Paul Writes:
 - “As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him!”
 - So - The First Medicine:
 - Of Prevention Is:
 - To Walk! And To Walk In Christ!
 - Day By Day & Moment By Moment - In Fellowship With Your Savior!
 - This Really Is:
 - The Best Prevention:
 - For Any Error & For Any Sin!
 - Have You Been Walking In & With Jesus This Week?
 - But Then - We Come To:
 - The Second Command:
 - Which We Find:
 - In 2:8 - Where Paul Adds:
 - “Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit!”
 - The Word “Beware” Here:
 - Is Also A Command - Which In Other Places:
 - Is Translated - “Take Heed!”
 - It Means To Watch! To Pay Attention:
 - And - To Be Watching While You Are Walking!

- **IE**: Because - Just Like Any Walk Or Hike You May Go On, There Are Things You Need To Watch Out For! Remember Going On Hikes Through The Woods - Needed To Watch Your Feet - Rocks & Holes - But Also Needed To Watch Your Head - For The Branch That Someone Ahead Of You Forgot To Tell You About!

- Even Though - When You Walk With Christ - It Is The Spiritually Safest & Straightest & Sweetest Path:

- There Are Still Dangers Along That Path That You Need To Watch Out For:
- So That You Stay On His Path!

- So - These Two Commands - To Walk & To Watch:

- Have Been Given To You:

- To Prevent You From Going Down The Wrong Path & To Prevent You From Tasting:
- The Poison Of Sin & Error!

- So - **Keep Watching As You Are Walking With Christ!**

5. And - What Are You To Watch Out For?

- 2:8 - "Beware lest any man spoil you!"

- This Is A Clear Warning Signal From The Apostle Paul!

- **IE**: It Is Like The Recent Tornado Warnings & Sirens That Were Meant To Alert People To Danger! In Ohio, As A Meteorologist Was Making His Report On TV, The Station Cut Into A Popular Show Called "The Bachelor" - People Started Complaining! And That Poor Meteorologist Had Enough - And Started Chastising His Audience For Caring More For A TV Program Than For The Lives Of Their Fellow Buckeyes!

- Here - Paul Is Interrupting The Status Quo Of Our Lives - In Order To Remind Us That There Is Real Danger Out There!

- There Really Are Threats To Your Spiritual Life!

- And What Are Those Threats Wanting To Do?

- To "Spoil You!"

- This Does Not Mean That They Want To:

- Ruin You - Like The Spoiling Of Fruit:

- But - They Want To Take You Away As Their Own Prey! To Take You As The Spoil Of A Battle In Which You Lost!

- Much Like Peter Describes The Devil:

- In 1 Peter 5:8 - "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour!"

- You Need To Remember That:

- The Devil Is Always At The Door & The Enemy Is Always At The Gate!

- And This Is Why You And I Need To:

- Keep Walking With Christ:

- And Keep Watching!

- As Jesus Tells Us In Mark 14:38 - "Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak!"

6. You Need To **Keep Watching As You Are Walking With Christ!**

- And In The Rest Of 2:8 Through 2:10 - Paul Gives Us A Couple Of Reasons Why!

- Because The Devil & His Servants:

- Are Trying To **Captivate** You:

- And Draw You Away From Your Walk With Christ!

- And They May Do This In Different Ways & With Different Things!

- But They Are Always Trying To Lure You Off The Pathway Of Christ!

- And The Question I Want You To Consider This Morning:

- Is This - Has This Happened To You Already?

- Is This Going On Already In Your Life?

- Have You Stopped Walking With Christ Because You Have Stopped Watching Out:

- For Those Who Want To "Spoil You" By Captivating You With Other Things?

- What Are **You** Captivated By?

* First - Have You Been Captivated By:

1. **What Is Futile?**

- Like What Paul Describes:

- In The Rest Of 2:8? Again - "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ!"
 - Paul's First Focus Is On:
 - What You & I **May** Be Captivated By!
 - And What We Need To Be On Guard **For!**
- We Need To "Beware" Of:
 - Christ-Less Philosophy:
 - That Can Draw Us Away From The "Simplicity That Is In Christ!" (2 Corinthians 11:3)
- What Is This "Philosophy" That Paul Is Warning Us About Here?
 - Well - The Word "Philosophy" In & Of Itself:
 - Does Not Describe Something That Is Altogether Bad!
 - "Philosophy" Simply Means The Love Of & The Pursuit Of Wisdom!
 - So - Not Necessarily A Bad Thing!
 - But - If That "Philosophy" Is Based On Things That Are Not True & Are Not Wise - Then - It Can Lead You Astray!
 - And Here - This Is The Kind Of "False Wisdom" Paul Is Describing!
 - It Is A "Philosophy" That Is "Not After Christ!" - It Is - Christ-Less!
- In Fact - This Is A Good Question:
 - To Ask About Any Kind Of Philosophy:
 - Or Counsel Or Instruction In Your Life!
 - From Friends / Books / Blogs!
 - **"Where Is Christ In This?"**
 - And If Christ Cannot Be Found:
 - You Will Soon Find That Philosophy & That So-Called Wisdom - To Be:
 - Faulty & Futile!
 - Which Is How Paul Describes:
 - All "Philosophy" That Is "Not After Christ!"
 - He Describes:
- Its True Substance!
 - It Is - In The Words Of 2:8 - "Vain Deceit!"
 - Christ-Less Philosophy & Counsel:
 - Is Like An Empty Promise!
 - **IE:** Like Many Of The Advertisements You Might Come Across! My Pillow! "Best Night's Sleep Ever!" Pretty Big Claim! The Wisdom Of This World Is Something That Will Always "Over-Promise & Under-Deliver!"
 - Think About The Promise:
 - Of Wealth & Riches!
 - The World's Philosophy Is - The More You Have - The More Content You Will Be!
 - Yet - Jesus Calls It The "Deceitfulness Of Riches!"
 - It Over-Promises:
 - And Under-Delivers!
 - It Is "Vain Deceit!"
 - Think About The Promise:
 - Of Sin & Our Lusts!
 - The World's Philosophy Is - Do Whatever You Want - And It Will Make You Happy!
 - Yet - Scripture Calls Them "Deceitful Lusts!"
 - They Over-Promise:
 - And Under-Deliver!
 - They Are "Vain Deceits!"
 - Yet - These Kinds Of Promises:
 - Are Used All The Time:
 - To Try To Capture & Captivate:
 - Your Mind, Your Heart, And Your Life Apart From Christ!
 - So Beware!
 - Watch Out For Anything That Might Offer You:
 - Something Wiser Or Better:
 - That Is "Not After Christ!"
 - Because It Is & Will Be Vain!

- Don't Be Captivated By What Is Empty / Vain / Futile!
 - Paul Also Describes:
- Its True Source!
 - The Reason Those "Christ-Less Philosophies" Are So Empty Is Because They Are:
 - 2:8 - "After The Tradition Of Men!"
 - Now - A Tradition - Something That Is Passed Along From Person-To-Person:
 - Is Not Always A Bad Thing Either!
 - It Can Be Used In A Good Sense:
 - When That "Tradition" Is The Passing Down:
 - Of God's Own Truth!
 - In 2 Thessalonians 2:15 - Paul Tells Us - "Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle!"
 - But - It Is The "Tradition Of Men" That We Need To Be Aware Of & Alert To!
 - They Are Man-Centered!
 - They Come From The Minds Of Men:
 - And Are Devoid Of Christ!
 - **IE:** One "Tradition" That We Often Hear About Is The "American Dream!" We Need To Be Careful Not To Be Captivated By This - As It Can Easily Draw Us Away From The Pathway Of Christ!
 - Don't Be Captivated By What Is Futile!
 - Because Its Source Is Of Men:
 - And Not After Christ! Paul Also Describes:
- Its True Subject:
 - It Is - Further - 2:8 - "After The Rudiments Of The World!"
 - Once Again - Rudiments - Something That Is A Basic Principle Or Element Of Something:
 - This Word Was Also Used To Describe The Alphabet - Because Letters Are the Basic Elements Of Words!
 - And So - Rudiments Are Not Always Bad Things Either!
 - It Is Used In A Good Sense:
 - In Hebrews 5:12 - For - The first principles of the oracles of God!"
 - We Need To Regularly Go Back To The Fundamental Truths Of God - His Greatness, His Grace, His Gospel!
 - But - When Those Rudiments Are:
 - "Of The World" - Paul Is Describing The Fundamentals Of This Fallen World:
 - Apart From God! This Phrase Has Also Been Translated As:
 - The "Spirits Of This World!"
 - A World & A Creation:
 - That Is Opposed To Its Creator!
 - Its What Happens When God Is No Longer In Our Thoughts!
 - Life Becomes All About Chance & One's Own Choices!
 - This Is Why Evolution & Abortion & Homosexuality:
 - Have Become Such Prominent Philosophies!
 - Because They Crowd Out God & Are Contrary To His Will & His Word!
 - And We Must Not Be:
 - Deluded By And Captivated By All That Is Futile!
 - Have You Been? Are You?
 - Remember - "All That Glitters Is Not Gold!" So:
 - 2:8 - "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ!"

* But Then - Won't You Be Captivated By:

2. ***What Is Full?***

- This Is What Paul Turns To Next In:
 - 2:9-10 - "For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. / And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power!"
 - Here - Paul's Focus Is On:
 - What You & I ***Should*** Be Captivated By!
 - And ***Can*** Be Captivated By!

- It Is **Christ!**

- It Is "**In Him!**"

- As We Sometimes Sing:

- O soul, are you weary and troubled?
No light in the darkness you see?
There's light for a look at the Savior,
And life more abundant and free.

- Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,
In the light of His glory and grace!

- Don't Be Captivated By:

- Those Things That Are Futile & Empty!

- Be Captivated By:

- The Fulness Of Christ!

- 2:9 - "For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily!"

- There Is So Much More In Christ:

- That Will Captivate You:

- And Satisfy You:

- Than This World Will Ever Have To Offer!

- In Christ - You Can See:

- **The Fulness Of Deity!**

- And What It Means To Be:

- Fully God!

- Need To Remember That This Is Who Jesus Is!

- He Was & Is & Will Ever Remain - God!

- This Means That:

- All That God Is - His Nature:

- And All That God Has - His Attributes:

- And All God Does - His Actions:

- Can Be Found In Jesus Christ Your Lord!

- There Is No Better Philosophy:

- And No Greater Wisdom Or Counsel:

- Than You Can Find In Jesus Christ!

- And This Is Why:

- You Need To Keep Walking & Watching With Him!

- He Is Alone Is Worthy Of:

- All Your Love & Pursuit!

- Because In Him Alone:

- Will You Find What Is:

- True & Satisfying!

- Be Captivated By The Fulness Of Christ!

- In Christ - You Will Also See:

- **The Fulness Of Humanity!**

- And What It Means To Be:

- Fully Man!

- We Also Need To Remember That:

- Jesus Became & Will Remain - A Man!

- This Means That:

- When Jesus Was Born Into This World:

- He Did So - So That He Might:

- Hunger & Eat With Us!

- Thirst & Drink With Us!

- Grieve & Weep With Us!

- Walk & Pray With Us!

- And Then - Bleed & Die For Us!

- As John Puts It:

- In John 1:14 - "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his

- glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth!”
 - And This Means That:
- In Christ - You Will Find:
 - ***The Fulness Of God’s Wisdom!***
 - How Can “All The Fulness Of The Godhead” Dwell In Jesus “Bodily”?
 - How Could This “Hypostatic Union” Even Take Place?
 - Don’t Know! It Remains A Mystery!
 - But It Reveals The True Wisdom Of God!
 - And The Wisdom That Can Be Found:
 - In Jesus - Is An Infinite Wisdom!
 - It Will Take Us All Eternity To Plumb Its Depths!
 - Don’t Be Captivated By:
 - Those Things That Are Trivial & Futile & Empty!
 - Be Captivated By:
 - The Fulness Of Christ!
 - And Then - Be Captivated By:
 - The Filling Of Christ!
 - Because - 2:10 - “And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power!”
 - If You Are A Christian Today:
 - And Are Walking With Him:
 - Remember That “Ye Are Complete In Him!”
 - This Means That:
 - “Possessing Him [You] Possess All!”
 - “Your Fulness Comes From His Fulness!”
 - **IE:** Its As If Jesus, An Infinite Reservoir Of The Divine Nature, Has Been Placed Within Your Own Heart! And Now - Because Christ Is In Your Life - All That He Is & All That He Has & All That He Does Is Available To You!
 - Calvin - “There Are In Him Resources From Which We May Be Filled, That Nothing Be Wanting In Us!”
 - This Is Why Every Other:
 - Philosophy Or Wisdom Or Counsel:
 - Of This World Is So Empty & Futile!
 - Once You Have Been Filled With The Fulness Of Christ:
 - Everything Else Will Leave You Deficient!
 - **IE:** Sometimes People Have Health Problems Because There Is A “Vitamin Deficiency” - And That May Be Solved - By Taking Vitamin Supplements!
 - But ***There Is Nothing That Can Supplement Christ For The Christian!***
 - Because In Christ - You Have No Deficiency!
 - You Have Been Filled With All You Need! Because You Have Been Filled With The Fulness Of Jesus Christ Himself!
 - And This Can Be Seen In The Next Phrase:
 - Of 2:10 - Where We Are Told That:
 - He Is “The head of all principality and power!”
 - This Seems To Have Been Something That Captivated Those Colossian Christians Back Then!
 - In 1:16 - These Principalities & Powers:
 - Were Also Mentioned - As Spiritual Or Angelic Beings - Who They Felt Could Help Then In Their Spiritual Lives!
 - But - Here - Paul Reminds Them That:
 - Even Angels Were Created By Christ:
 - And Were Under The Control Of Christ!
 - And So - If There Is Any Attempt:
 - To Draw You Away From Christ:
 - And To Any Other Kind Of Authority Other Than Christ:
 - Remember That Jesus Is The One Who Made Them All!

Conclusion:

1. So - What Are You Captivated By This Morning?

- Is It Something In This World?
 - If So - You Will Find It:
 - Empty & Vain & Futile:
 - If Christ Is Not In It!
- 2. Instead:
 - Be Captivated By:
 - The Fulness Of Christ:
 - And His Filling Of You!
 - Because:
 - If You Are A Christian:
 - “Ye Are Complete In Him!”
- 3. And He Is Worthy:
 - Of Your Attention!
 - He Is Worthy:
 - Of Your Affection!
 - He Is Worthy:
 - Of Your Captivation!
 - Remember - “Possessing Him You Possess All!”
 - “Ye Are Complete In Him!”

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