

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
PAUL'S LETTER TO THE COLOSSIANS – LESSON 5
COLOSSIANS 2:1-10
WEEK OF JANUARY 19 – JANUARY 25

SUFFICIENCY OF CHRIST – DEFICIENCY OF PHILOSOPHY OF MAN

The false teachers and philosophers worked to infiltrate and to destroy the Colossian church by infecting the purity of the gospel with man-made ideas and philosophies all in rebellion against God. The Colossian heresy contained elements of Greek philosophy, Jewish legalism and mysticism mixed together with a mysterious and higher knowledge necessary to draw closer to God. In every generation down through history, Christ's Church has faced an ever-present danger of doctrinal attack through the futile speculations and foolish ideas of man. In this section of Colossians, we see the sufficiency of Christ standing in sharp contrast to the deficiency of man-made religion and humanistic philosophical ideas.

Read Colossians 2:1-8:

1. Which two of the tri-cities was Paul addressing in **Colossians 2:1**?

Consider that Paul never met any of the believers to whom he was writing, He was only acquainted with them through the reports and information he received from Epaphras. Yet, driven by his love for Christ, Paul was deeply concerned for Christ's church.

2. What does Paul say in **vs.1** that shows the depth of his care and concern for believers?
3. In **Colossians 2:2-7**, Paul describes what he was striving to see formed or built up in the lives of the believers. From **Colossians 2:2** what did Paul desire to see develop and grow in believers? How would these qualities help them refute and resist false teachers?

In light of the heresy plaguing them, Paul stresses the need for the Colossians' understanding to include a true knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ Himself, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. At the heart of this understanding, they need to have a subtle conviction about Christ deity and sufficiency. In Christ himself the hidden God was manifested to mankind. In that sense He is God's mystery.

MacArthur New Testament Commentary Colossians & Philemon, John MacArthur page 90.

4. In **Colossians 2:3-4**, Paul warns the church and gives the truths they must believe to resist and refute false teaching. From the following verses, how is that protection realized in the church today?
 - **Titus 1:9**
 - **2 Timothy 3:16**

5. **Read 2 Timothy 4:2-4.** How do you see these verses displayed in today's church?

6. What is Paul communicating to the **Colossians vs 5**?

7. Paul begins **verse 6** with "Therefore", referring back to **verses 2-5**. What does Paul instruct the church to do in **vs 6**? What does that mean? See **Ephesians 5:1-10** for reference.

8. Our eternal planting (firmly rooted) begins at conversion. At that time, Christ becomes the source of our spiritual growth. (Romans 8:29-30). From **verse 7**, how are believers built up in Him and established in the faith?
 - **Acts 20:32**

 - **1 Tim 4:6**

 - **2 Tim. 3:16**

9. What is the result of the progression that is described in **vs 7(b)**?

10. What steps are you taking or will you take to progress in walking in Him, being built up in Him and more deeply established in the faith?

Read Colossians 2:8-10 where Paul warns the church to be on guard and vigilant to the dangers of false doctrine. In these verses, Paul contrasts the emptiness of human philosophy and worldly ideas with the complete and majestic sufficiency of Jesus Christ.

11. How does Paul describe the empty human and worldly wisdom in **vs. 8**?

12. In **verses 9 and 10**, How does Paul describe Christ and His rich provision for the believer?

13. In our current culture, what empty deception and worldly thinking do you need to be prepared to refute?

"Everyone has a choice, whether to follow human wisdom or to come to Christ. To follow human wisdom is to be kidnapped by the emissaries of Satan and his false system, which leaves a person spiritually incomplete. To come to Christ is to come to the one who alone offers completeness. May those of us who have found Christ never doubt His sufficiency by turning aside to follow any human wisdom. **MacArthur, p. 104**