

9/20/18

What About The Sufficiency of Christ?
Col. 2:9-10

Since we looked at “What About Philosophy?” in our last study, we now want to look at “What About The Sufficiency of Christ?”

1. Paul warned the Colossians of the insufficiency of philosophy, the imminent danger being that it is empty delusion, centered on human tradition and the wisdom of the world and not after Christ, unable to reveal God or saved a person.
2. Therefore Paul moves on to declare the sufficiency of Christ, in whom dwells all the fullness of the Godhead in bodily form, and in whom they are complete being the head of all authority and power.

How tragic it is when a believer is ensnared and deceived to seek what he already possesses, not recognizing what he has, adding to their own hurt.

1. My position in Christ is what God did for me.
2. My development in Christ is what God does in me.
3. My being used in Christ is what God does through me.

Take notice that between our completeness in Christ and the process of development, there will be attempts to deceive the believer.

In contrast to the insufficiency of philosophy in verse eight, Paul gives the sufficiency of Christ. vs. 9-15

1. The proclamation is stated first. vs. 9-10
2. Then the particulars of that sufficiency are spelled out. vs. 11-15

Lets examine the proclamation of the sufficiency of Christ, characterized by three truths. Col. 2:9-10

- I. Christ is the fullness of God in Himself. vs. 9
 - II. Christians receives the fullness of God in Christ. vs. 10a
 - III. Christ has the fullness of authority over all seeming fullness. vs. 10b
- I. **Christ is the fullness of God in Himself.**
 - * “For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.” vs. 9
 - A. The person indicated is the Messiah.
 1. The personal pronoun “Him” is reflexive, back to “Christ” at the end of verse eight.
 - a. The word Christ is “Cristos”, meaning the anointed.
 - b. The equivalent of the Old Testament. “mashach”, the Anointed of God.
 2. The obvious contrast can not be missed nor should it be missed.
 - a. Human philosophy, empty deceit, traditions of men and the basic

- principles, the ABC's of the world do can not make man one with God.
- b.** These only carry off mankind as spoils or plunder by these false teachers and spiritual kidnappers.
- 3.** The preposition is specific "in Him".
 - a.** In the person of Jesus alone, the Messiah.
 - b.** No emanation or aeon of the Gnostics.
- B.** The particular point about the person of Messiah is, He lacks nothing in view of deity.
- 1.** The apostle Paul says the sufficiency of Christ is that it dwells in Him.
 - a.** The word dwells "kataiokeo" is made up of two words.
 - 1)** The word "oikeo", which means to be at home and "kata", down.
 - 2)** The word dwell "latoikeo" means to live at home.
 - 3)** The same word is used for the believer of Christ dwelling at home in their hearts. Eph. 3:17
 - b.** The tense is the present indicating action that has lasting effects, continuous and permanent presence a home in Christ.
 - 1)** In other words it is something of His very essence and nature.
 - 2)** Not something He acquired at any one time.
 - 3)** It pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell. Col. 1:19

- 2.** The apostle Paul specifies exactly what dwells in the person of Messiah making Him sufficient, "all the fullness of the Godhead".
 - a.** The extent of the fullness is total.
 - 1)** The word all "pas" means each, every, the whole and everything.
 - 2)** The same word is used 39 times in the epistle, context indicates the meaning.
 - b.** The exact totality is stated by the word fullness.
 - 1)** The word fullness "pleroma" is believed to be a favorite word of these intruding heretics to identify the object or goal through their special knowledge for the ultimate attainment with God.
 - 2)** The word basically means what has been filled to completeness or its potential.
 - a)** The word was used for a ship ready for a journey, equipped fully, with sailors, oarsmen, etc.
 - b)** Paul used it for the sum total of the Gentiles that will close the church age before the tribulation. Rom. 11:25
 - c)** Paul also used it to describe the complete fulfillment of time when God sent his Son. Gal. 4:4
 - 3)** The context indicates the sum total of deity and divine attributes, appearing two times. Col. 1:19

- a) All that ever resided in God or ever will, resides in Jesus Christ, proving He is God.
- b) Rejecting the teaching of the Gnostics, that the anointing of Jesus came on Him at His baptism and left Him prior to His death on the cross!
- c) Jesus is not an emanation inferior to God, but God Himself.
- d) The verb form is used five times, translated “filled”, “complete” and “fulfill”. Col. 1:9, 25; 2:10; 4:12, 17
- c. The emphasis is made by the explicit kind of fullness by the term Godhead,
 - 1) The phrase Godhead “theotes” appears only this time in the New Testament.
 - 2) The emphasis is not on divinity, but deity, the state of being God.
 - 3) There is a different word “theiotes” to emphasizes divinity, translated Godhead and divine. Rom. 1:20
 - 4) Verse nine is one of the most powerful verses for the deity of Christ.
 - 5) Jesus is one of a kind because He is God and to search for God apart from Him, means you will never find God!

- C. The precise point of contact the person of Messiah provides is His identity with humanity.
 - 1. The apostle Paul declares the sufficiency of Christ is not just that in Him dwells all the

- fullness of the Godhead but the fact that it does so in bodily form.
 - a. Jesus as God existed from all eternity, “Before Abraham was I Am.” Jn. 8:58
 - b. “In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God and the Word was God.” Jn. 1:1
 - c. “The word became flesh and we beheld His glory as the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” Jn. 1:14
 - d. “A body You have prepared for Me.” Heb. 10:5d
 - e. As a child. Lk. 2:40
 - 1) He grew, physical.
 - 2) He grew strong in spirit, spiritually
 - 3) He was filled with wisdom, mentally.
 - f. Jesus tired, thirsted, hungered, wept, he even cried and He died, being visible, approachable and touchable!
- 2. The importance of Jesus being a man, while at the same time being God makes His sufficiency, most effective.
 - a. He is the link to God, the First Adam failed marring the image of God through sin and death to all being. Rom. 5:12
* The Last Adam victorious. 1Cor. 15:45
 - b. He can identify with us and us with Him, submitting Himself to all the trials and testings of man.
 - 1) “Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might

- be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.” Heb. 2:17
- 2) “For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.” Heb. 2:18
 - 3) Not that He needed to experience to know how we feel, He is all knowing, but so we can identify in a practical way.
- c. He became my substitute and died for my sin.
- 1) God made Him to be sin for me, who knew no sin, that I might be made the righteousness of God in Him, the propitiation for my sins and not mine alone, but for the whole world. 2Cor. 5:21; 1Jn. 2:2
 - 2) Jesus was and is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. 1Jn. 1:29
 - 3) Jesus tasted death for every human being and through death to destroy him who had the power of death, that is the devil. Heb. 2:9, 14
- d. He is our intercessor before God.
- 1) Job’s problem was that there was no daysman or umpire between him and God. Job 9:33

- 2) Jesus is the answer to Job’s problem, “For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” Heb. 4:15-16
- 3) God the Father addresses Jesus as a **High Priest** forever, belonging to the order of Melchizedek. Heb. 5:10

Illustration

“And without controversy great is the mystery of **godliness**: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.” 1Tim. 3:16

Application

1. Jesus was God before his Incarnation.
 - a. Paul says that Jesus being in the form of God did not consider it robbery to be equal with God. (antecedent condition). Phil. 2:6
 - b. Jesus Christ divested Himself of his glory, not deity nor any divine attribute, according to His own words. Jn. 17:5
 - c. The word was manifested, they saw, heard and touched Him, the word of life. 1Jn. 1:1-2
2. Jesus was God during this Incarnation.

- a. Satan acknowledged Him as God in the temptation. Matt. 4
 - b. Jesus acknowledged it under oath by the high priest. Matt. 26:63-64
 - c. The unclean spirit fell down before him and cried, “You are the Son of God.” Mark 3:11
 - d. Simeon said he had seen the Lord Christ as God promised, Lk. 1:26
3. Jesus was God after his resurrection and remains being a man, glorified.
- a. Thomas said, “My Lord and my God.” Jn. 20:28
 - b. Paul says every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. Phil. 2:10-11
 - c. There is no other name given, whereby men must be saved. Acts 4:12
 - d. Jesus sits at the right hand of the Father, place of honor and authority. Acts 2:33
 - e. “Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make **intercession** for them.” Heb. 7:25
 - f. Christ was not one of the many aeons or an angel, but the God-Man sufficient to save a person completely!
 - 1) “Before Me there was no God formed, Nor shall there be after Me. I, even I, am the LORD, And besides Me there is no savior.” Is. 43:10f-11
 - 2) “Your Father Abraham rejoiced to see My day: and he saw it and was glad.” Jn. 8:56

Christ is the fullness of God in Himself being the God-Man!

II. Christians receive the fullness of God in Christ.

* “And you are complete in Him.” vs. 10a

- A. The affirmation of the proclamation is that in view of the sufficiency of Jesus as the God-Man, they were in union and save by believing “in Him” Jesus alone.
 - 1. The personal pronoun “you”, the Colossians.
 - a. They were saints in Christ. Col. 1:2a
 - b. Faithful brethren in Christ. Col. 1:2a
 - c. They were recipients of grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Col. 1:2b
 - d. They were manifesting “faith in Christ” and “love for all the saints”. Col. 1:3
 - 2. The tense of the verb are “este” is the present and were recipient of intercessory prayer by Paul and Timothy.
 - a. That they walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him. Col. 1:10a-b
 - b. That they be fruitful in every good work and increase in the knowledge of God. Col. 1:10c
 - c. That they be strengthened with all might, according to the power of His glorious power, for all patience and long-suffering with joy. Col. 1:11

- d. That they had been qualified by the Father to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light. Col. 1:12
- B.** The confirmation of the proclamation is that in view of the sufficiency of Jesus as the God-Man, they were “complete in Him”.
1. The word complete “pleroo” is the verb form of the nouns “pleroma”. vs. 9
 - a. There is a purposeful play on words in the Greek text means having been made full and continue so.
 - 1) It is used of fulfilled Scripture or prophecy. Matt. 1:22
 - 2) It is used of a total accomplishment of ministry duty. Acts 12:25
 - 3) It is used of being filled with the Holy Spirit totally. Eph. 5:18
 - 4) It is used of a ship fully rigged and equipped for voyage.
 - b. In view of the fact that Jesus is the Messiah or Christ, in Whom dwells all the sun total of deity, the God-Man, you lack nothing for salvation.
 - 1) Notice the phrases “In Him” and “With Him”. vs. 10-13“
 - 2) And of his fullness have all we received, and grace for grace.” Jn. 1:16
 2. The implication being, to seek something more or apart from Jesus to be complete in

- salvation, is to be ignorant that a person is complete and in all their searching never find it, being deceived.
- a. For He alone has provided redemption for us through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. Col. 1:14
 - b. For He alone is the visible form of the invisible God, the pre-eminent one over all creation. Col. 1:15
 - c. For He alone created all things in heaven, in earth, visible, invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers, for all was created through Him and for Him. Col. 1:16
 - d. For He alone is eternal and existed before creation. Col. 1:17
 - e. For he alone is the head of the church , being the first and pre-eminent One to rise from the dead, the pre-eminent One over all things. Col. 1:18
 - f. For He alone pleased the Father, to the extent, it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell. Col. 1:19
3. The sufficiency of Jesus for salvation is clearly a finished work.
- a. He alone is able to make peace with God for man, through the blood of His cross. Col. 1:20
 - b. He alone is able to reconcile us, who were once enemies. Col. 1:21

- c. He alone is able to present us holy and blameless. Col. 1:22
- d. He alone is able to supply all wisdom and knowledge. Col. 2:3
- e. He alone is able to circumcise our hearts. Col. 2:11
- f. He alone is able to raise us up in the newness of life. Col. 2:12
- g. He alone is able to forgive sins. Col. 2:13
- h. He alone able to overcome any power. Col. 2:15
 - 1) They did not need special knowledge to bring them to the goal of salvation, they were saved already!
 - 2) They did not need to seek or go through any intermediary emanations to arrive a salvation!

Illustration

A classic example is the deception of some who seek to find fulfillment outside their marriage, thinking that they are lacking something only to defile, pollute and even lose what they had, being ignorant that what they were searching for they possessed all along!

Application

1. When Mormons come to your door and tell you also need their “Doctrines and Covenants” and membership in their church for salvation, they lie and are attempting to deceive you.
 - * Paul tells the Galatians, “But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other **gospel** to you than

- what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.” Gal. 1:8, 9
2. When Jehovah Witnesses come to your door and tell you Jesus is a created angel, Michael the Archangel, they lie and are attempting to deceive you.
 - * John says, “Who is a liar but he who **denies** that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who **denies** the Father and the Son. Whoever **denies** the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also.” 1Jn. 2:22, 23
 3. When New Agers tell you that Jesus is only one of many avatar or ascended Masters for salvation, they lie and are attempting to deceive you.
 - * Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.” Matt. 16:16-18
 4. When Catholics tell you that Mary, canonized saints or virgins of idles can aid in your salvation, they lie and are deceiving you.
 - a. Paul tell Timothy, “For there is one God and one Mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus.” 1Tim. 2:5
 - b. “Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man’s devising.” Acts 17:29

- c. Christ is all you need, in Him dwells the fullness of the Godhead and He is in you and you in Him, therefore the fullness of God has reached you and you are in a state of fullness regarding everything for life and godliness.
2Pet. 1:3-4
- 1) Not being gods, but sons of God.
 - 2) Not being perfect, but justified.
 - 3) Christ was sufficient for the demoniac at Gadara, the woman with the issue of blood, Nicodemus and Paul the Pharisee!

Christians receives the fullness of God in Christ in view of being the God-Man!

III. Christ has the fullness of authority over all seeming fullness.

- * “Who is the head of all principality and power.”
vs. 10b
- A. The God-Man Jesus who you are complete in for salvation is the head.
1. The sufficiency of Jesus for salvation is re-affirmed by the fact that He is head.
 - a. The word for head is “kephale” is used as a symbolic of authority, found three times. Col. 1:18; 2:10, 19
 - b. When we speak about someone being the head of the family, we mean he is the one who is the having the ultimate authority.

- c. The husband is said to be head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church.
Eph. 5:26-27
2. The sufficiency of Jesus for salvation is based on the fact that He has the final authority on prophetic salvation.
 - a. He fulfilled all the prophecies of the Old Testament as Messiah or Christ.
 - b. He fulfilled the payment of sin on the cross by His own words, “It is finished”.
Jn. 19:30c
 3. The sufficiency of Jesus was questioned often during His ministry, hinging on the question of authority.
 - a. One occasion was in Capernaum as He entered a house and preached the word.
Mk. 2:1-12
 - b. The place was so crowded they lowered a paralytic through the roof. vs. 1-4
 - c. Jesus saw their faith, said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven you.” vs. 5
 - d. Some of the scribes sitting there reasoned in their hearts, “Why does this *Man* speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?” vs. 6-7
 - e. But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, “Why do you reason about these things in your hearts?” vs. 8

- f. Jesus said, “Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Arise, take up your bed and walk’? “But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins” --He said to the paralytic, “I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.” vs. 9-11
 - g. Immediately he arose, took up the bed and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw anything like this!” vs. 12
- B.** The God-Man Jesus who you are complete in for salvation is the head of all existing forces.
- 1. The word principalities “arche” means beginning or origin.
 - a. It can be used for the beginning of a series or the first person or thing.
 - b. It can be used for a principality, ruler or magistrate.
 - c. The context determines the meaning, found 746 times in the New Testament, three times in Colossians.
 - 1) Once for Jesus, who was the first in line of the resurrection. Col. 1:18c
 - 2) The other two are used for the invisible realm of the spirit world. Col. 1:16; 2:10

- 2. The word powers “exousia” means the ability and right to exercise authority.
 - a. It is used of Jesus, “He taught them as one having authority, not as the Scribes.” Matt. 7:29
 - b. This word appears four time in Colossians, all translated “power, powers”. Col. 1:13, 16; 2:10, 15
 - c. Once again, I believe they deal with the invisible realm of the spirit world.
 - d. Again, the false teaching was that angels needed to be sought to obtain perfection or completeness. Col. 2:18
 - e. Not only for this reason, but both words “principalities and powers” are used by Paul in Ephesians for the spiritual warfare against Satan’s angels that are spirits. Eph. 6:12
* The companion epistle!
 - f. Jesus created all of them, therefore He is greater and superior to them, no one is independent of Him or above Him but subject to Him, because He created everything! Col. 1:16; 3:1
 - g. “Jesus who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.” 1Pet. 3:22

Illustration

It is much like the head coach of a football team, though there are assistant coaches and a captain of the team, the ultimate and final authority comes from the coach! So Jesus!

Application

1. God knew the potential of man to bow to creation as a separate entity from God, so He warned man.
 - a. “And take heed, lest you lift your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun, the **moon**, and the stars, all the host of heaven, you feel driven to **worship** them and serve them, which the LORD your God has given to all the peoples under the whole heaven as a heritage.” Deut. 4:19
 - b. “But then, indeed, when you did not know God, you served those which by nature are not gods. But now after you have known God, or rather are known by God, how is it that you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage?” Gal. 4:8-9
 - c. “Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man--and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.” Rom. 1:22-23
2. There are cultures that focus entirely on the worship of nature.
 - a. Animism according to the American Heritage Dictionary is the attribution of conscious life to natural objects or to nature itself.

- b. The belief in the existence of spiritual beings that are separable or separate from bodies.
 - c. The hypothesis holding that an immaterial force animates the universe.
 - * There are only two powers in the world, those of God through Jesus Christ or Satan, which we wrestle principalities... Eph 6:12
3. Jesus is the highest authority, all angels serve Him and the bad one have boundaries.
 - a. He is the head of all principality and power. Col. 2:10
 - b. Christ spoiled principalities and powers and triumphed over them. Col. 3:15
 - c. He is above all principality and power and might, and dominion and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come. And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church. Eph. 1:21-22
 - d. The church is manifesting God’s wisdom to these principalities and powers in heaven. Eph. 3:10
 - e. The believer does not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Eph. 6:12
4. God’s angels are identified for us in the Scriptures.
 - a. There are Seraphim, meaning burning one, they fly overhead the throne of God, proclaiming his holiness. Is. 6:23

- b. There are Cherubim, who appear to be the highest order, Lucifer is called the anointed cherub, who led one third of the angels against God and called the accuser of the brethren, Ezk. 28:14; Rev. 12:4, 10
- c. There are archangels, Michael is the only one referred to as an archangel. Jude 1:9
- d. Angels are ministering spirits to the heirs of salvation. Heb. 1:7, 14
- e. Jesus spoke these words, as He lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, “as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.” Jn. 17:1-3

Christ has the fullness of authority over all seeming fullness though He is the God-Man!

Conclusion

This is the proclamation of the sufficiency of Christ.

- I.** Christ is the fullness of God in Himself, being the God-Man!
- II.** Christians receive the fullness of God in Christ in view that He is the God-Man!
- III.** Christ has the fullness of authority over all seeming fullness though He is the God-Man!