

YOU ARE  
COMPLETE  
in  
HIM.  
COLOSSIANS 2:10 NKJV

A new creation focus through Colossians ...

## As You Were Instructed

"What do you have," Paul questioned the Corinthian brethren concerning their faith in Christ, "you did not receive?" (1 Corinthians 4:7). As Jesus anticipated in His prayer on the west side of the Kidron, all who come to be Christians believe in Christ as a result of the word of the apostles (John 17:22). By setting it up so that everything comes back to the apostles' doctrine, the Lord successfully blocked the development of any contradictory or confusing teachings among those who are really interested in truth. No council of Nicea could later determine doctrines, or a meeting of

minds at Augsburg, or Westminster, or even Nashville, for that matter. All need to be taught, but the teaching must always be checked against the infallible standard of the word of God and the precepts and principles elucidated especially in the New Testament writings.

- **Walk in Christ** — Since the brethren in Colossae had recognized Jesus as being the Christ, they were to "walk in Him." The Christian life is often pictured as a walk (or sometimes a race or run). The idea is that the saint's steps are to be directed by the principles of the word of God on an hourly and daily basis. "Make straight paths for your feet," encourages the scripture (Hebrews 12:13). The disciple is to keep his proper focus and not stray from the way of truth. Thus, having been immersed into Christ, he will conduct all of his activity in Christ, and eventually be escorted by angels into the presence of Jesus Himself.
- **Rooted and growing** — Without proper roots, the plant will suffer — it will probably die or be easily uprooted. The apostle Paul was confident that the faith of the Colossians was properly grounded — "firmly rooted" was how he describes it. With the basic and solid teaching concerning Christ and the church in place, the individuals and the congregation could grow in numbers and in true spirituality, "being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed" (Colossians 2:7). With the forces of evil and the subtleties of false doctrine being so pervasive, the apostle was very enthusiastic about how good the initial teaching was in Colossae, and about how well the follow up efforts to solidify the brethren were going.
- **Gratitude** — Things of earth tend to obscure the clear view that even a saint should have concerning heaven and hell. This all-important issue is not complex; a person when he dies is either going to end up in glory or in the fires of hell. God wants this picture to be very clear so that the peoples of the earth might make a clear choice about where they will spend their eternities; Satan wants as much consternation as possible thrown into the mix so that the confused masses will not sort out truth from fiction and be cast into the same lake of fire that is the final location of the outcast and rebellious angel. The saints, educated in the eternal truths and having obeyed the gospel of his salvation, are aware of the final possible outcomes of mankind. Thus, rescued from the domain of darkness, the followers of Christ are "overflowing with gratitude." They recognize that without the loving and forgiving intercession of Christ, their part also would be in what Jesus called "the furnace." Instead, by God's grace, they will be able to praise the Almighty in the courts of glory forever!

Without the scripture, no one would know about the ultimate end of each person. Without the scripture, no one would know of the love of God, and His efforts to extricate man from the predicament he put himself in by his own sin. Without scripture, no one would know what a person must believe and do to be saved from his sins, and to have fellowship with the Father through the Holy Spirit. And without instruction, no one would know what the scripture teaches about those things. Each modern Christian must praise God, for he too is "established in [his] faith, just as [he] was instructed."

JAY WILSON

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