

YOU ARE
COMPLETE
in
HIM.
COLOSSIANS 2:10, NKJV

A new creation focus through Colossians ...

The Fulness of Deity

Periodically the follower of Christ should stop for a moment and contemplate the awesomeness of God. He should take a short tour through the photographs from the Hubble telescope to begin to get a glimpse of the vastness of the universe, and to understand that this vastness is smaller than God. He should take a simple excursion through the workings of the cell to begin to get a smidgeon understanding of the marvels of God's engineering. He should take a visual flyby of the differing brightness and colors of the stars of the Milky Way, and take time to consider

how many atoms it takes to make twelve grams of carbon. No matter which way and how far into the material realm a man might look, the evidence of a supremely amazing Creator is there. But the material realm, as awesome and marvelous as it is, is pale and uninteresting in comparison to the glory, the power, the intricacy of the spiritual realm. And it is to the spiritual realm the interest of the Christian is drawn, as he seeks to know the things hidden from the past generations, but now revealed through the writings of the New Testament apostles and prophets.

- ▼ **The body of Christ** — Everything about the awesome God dwelt in the body of Jesus as He walked on the surface of this earth. This point the apostle Paul had acknowledged earlier in this letter, commenting, "For it *was* the Father's good pleasure for all the fulness to dwell in Him" (Colossians 1:19). The tense on the verb here is *past*, emphasizing Jesus in the flesh. But here in what we moderns have broken down into the second chapter of this epistle to the Colossians, the Holy Spirit inspired Paul to write this blockbuster: "For in Him all the fulness of Deity *dwells* in bodily form" (Colossians 2:9). The tense of the verb here is *present*, showing how everything about God now dwells. And He dwells — in all His fulness — in the present body of Christ, the church! The word translated *Deity* indicates, more strongly than any other word of the Bible, that everything about God dwells in the body of Christ. When the superlatives — "all the fulness" are added — it is clear that there is nothing more to Deity, the Godhead, than that which abides in the church of the truly living God. "Do you not know that you [plural] are a temple of God," explained Paul, referring to the congregation as a whole, "and that the Spirit of God dwells in you [plural]" (1 Corinthians 3:16). This is a powerfully amazing truth that the saint of God should really and repeatedly contemplate.

- ▼ **In Christ** — There are two locations of the spiritual realm: in Christ, or outside of Christ. Those who are outside of Christ are trapped in the domain of darkness; those who have been immersed *into* Christ are those for whom all blessings flow. A key emphasis, then, has to be placed on the beginning words of the apostle's statement: "*In Him* all the fulness of Deity dwells in bodily form."

It is a challenge to try to think of all the awesomeness of God dwelling in the body of Christ, the true tabernacle, the church of God in Christ Jesus. Jesus, of course, in the last days of His living in the flesh, anticipated the total unity of the brethren in Christ with the Father, Son, and Spirit. "The glory which You have given Me I have given to them," noted the Christ in His prayer from the west side of the Kidron, looking past the cross, past the resurrection, past the ascension, looking to the coming of the Spirit on the day of Pentecost, "that they may be one, just as We are one; I in them, and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity" (John 17:22,23). "In Him all the fulness of Deity dwells in bodily form." Now!

"IN HIM ALL
THE FULNESS OF
DEITY DWELLS IN
BODILY FORM."

JAY WILSON