

Complete in Christ Colossians 2:9-17

I. Dangers To Avoid – 2:4

1. Human Philosophy – 2:8
It is “empty” & “deceitful”
Based upon principles of this world system
2. Legalism – 2:16-17
Return to the law – self-righteousness
3. Mysticism – 2:18-19
Seeking spiritual help with angels
4. Asceticism – 2:20-23
Seeking righteousness by self-denial

ii. Christ Alone – All Sufficient -2:9-10

1. He is the fullness of God – 9
In Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily
Jesus Christ is fully God in human flesh
2. You are complete in Him – 10
“Complete” means to be made whole, to be restored
God’s creative plan for humans is now restored in Christ
He is Head, we, His body & God dwells fully in Him
Gnostic knowledge cannot make us more complete
He is head over all principality and power
These spirit beings cannot make us more complete

III. His Redemptive Work – 2:11-15

1. You are circumcised in Christ – 11
O.T. saints were set apart unto God
By physical circumcision – cutting away flesh
Christ has set us apart unto God
By spiritual circumcision – cutting away sinful flesh
2. You are buried with Him in baptism – 12
God sees us as dying & buried with Him
Our confession in baptism is picture of this
We are also risen with Him in newness of life
Rom. 6:3-4 speaks of this picture in baptism
3. We are made alive in Christ - 13
We were dead in our trespasses & sins
Ephesians 2: 1-3 spells this out
But God made us alive with Christ – Eph. 2:4-6
Having forgiven us all our trespasses
4. God completely cancelled our debt – 14
The record of our sins was nailed to His cross
Christ paid in full for all our sins
5. Christ defeated all spiritual powers – 15
Satan & demonic spirits (fallen angels)
He disarmed them so they can not accuse us
Rom. 8:33 Their charges are dismissed in Christ
Christ is our advocate before the Father
1John 2:1-2

IV. Christ Has Fulfilled the Law – 2:16-17

1. Don’t seek righteousness by the law
Proven that we cannot keep the law
Christ came to completely fulfill the law
Matthew 5:17-20
2. God sees us in Christ
He has declared us righteous in Christ
2 Cor. 5:21; Rom. 8:1
We have died to the law – Rom. 7:4
We are now married to Christ –
Bearing fruit to God
3. Ceremonial law was a shadow – 17
Dietary laws, festivals, new moon, sabbath
These all were a shadow of things to come
All pointed ahead to the Messiah
Christ is the substance – reality with God
Why hold to a shadow when you have reality