

DISCUSSION AND APPLICATION

Paul warns the Colossians Christians not to be taken 'captive' by "philosophy and empty deceit." What would that look like? What kinds of 'philosophies' and 'empty deceits' threaten to take you captive? What can you do to guard against them?

Paul says that Jesus is filled with God, and that Christians are filled with Jesus. What are the implications of that? Does your life and attitude demonstrate, or betray, that truth? How could you manifest, Jesus, and God, more fully?

Paul says that God cancelled the debt of sin that each one of us carries. How did God do that? Do you know that to be true for yourself? What should be your response?

Paul tells the Colossian Christians that they were "dead in [their] trespasses." We too are each of us dead in our trespasses until God raises us from spiritual death. If you do not know this for yourself, pray that God would forgive your sins in Jesus and raise you too to new life in him.



A Short Study of COLOSSIANS 2:6-15

In this study from the second chapter of Colossians we see some of the benefits of being united with Christ through faith.

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TBC012.01.02S

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COLOSSIANS 2:6-15

- 6 *Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him,*
- 7 *rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.*
- 8 *See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.*
- 9 *For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,*
- 10 *and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.*
- 11 *In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ,*
- 12 *having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.*
- 13 *And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses,*
- 14 *by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.*
- 15 *He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.*

OBSERVATION

Mark the words “in him” and “with him.” These words refer to Jesus Christ. Paul is telling the Colossian Christians to ‘walk’ in Jesus.

- How does Paul describe that walk?
- What five ways does Paul tell the Colossians that they benefit from being in, and with, Jesus?

Mark the words “made alive.”

- Who was made alive?
- With whom?
- Who did it?
- How was it done?
- What did *he* do to the “rulers and authorities”?

Mark the words “according to.” Paul gives the Colossian Christians a warning.

- What was that warning?

CROSS REFERENCES AND INTERPRETATION

Paul says that “in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily.” Look up Colossians 1:15, Hebrews 1:3a and John 1:1-5. What do you understand by this? What does it tell us about Jesus?

Paul says that the Colossian Christians were ‘buried’ and ‘raised’ with Jesus. Look up Romans 6:4-10. In what sense is a Christian ‘buried’ and ‘raised’ with Jesus?

Paul also says that the Colossian Christians were “filled in him.” Look up Acts 2:4, 31, 52, and Ephesians 4:11-16. In what ways is a Christian ‘filled’ in Jesus?