

OUTLINE

The Fullness of Life in Christ: Colossians 2:8-12

Pastor Adam Hall ☞ Dryden First Baptist Church ☞ Feb 6, 2022



Colossians 2:8-12ESV

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.

Introduction and Background

- Christians can be deceived or led _____
- can you think of a person who has _____ their sin because they love their sin and do not want to turn away from it?
- I sure can, and I see this kind of behavior more often than I would like to

- we can _____ the truth if it goes against our desires or our pre-conceived ideas about a topic

- Gregg Ten Elshof in his book called "I Told Me So: Self Deception And The Christian Life" writes about a "Caffeine Study and Self-Deception",
In one fascinating study some years ago, subjects were presented with evidence suggesting that there was a correlation between heavy caffeine use and breast cancer. Subjects were then asked to report on whether or not (or to what degree) they found the evidence convincing. In the female population, heavy consumers of caffeine were significantly less convinced than were those who consumed less. The male population was significantly more convinced than were the female heavy consumers, and there was little difference between heavy and light caffeine consumers in the male population. The studies revealed, in other words, that those for whom the hypothesis was bad news were least likely to be convinced by the evidence. Related studies reveal that we often spend more time scrutinizing evidence for a view if we find it threatening than if we find it benign.

- basically if you like caffeine then no truth will convince you that it is harmful
- to make things very simple, if someone likes their sin, then they will _____ that sin even though they are given evidence from God's Word that the sin is harmful

- we hear all sorts strange ideas that are idolized in our Canadian culture like
 - 1) if it feels good do it
 - 2) everyone else is doing it so it must be ok
 - 3) this must be accepted because many Canadians think it is acceptable

- these ideas allow for one to reject the Lord and _____ their sin
- the acceptance of sin and rejection of Christ are the dangerous _____ that Paul is warning these Colossians of when he says “watch _____ or see to it that no one takes you _____” in Colossians 2:8
- last time we talked about the basics of Christianity with the use of the farming imagery “THE ROOTS, THE SHOOTS AND THE FRUITS” in Colossians 2:6-7
- we talked about the _____ – receiving Jesus Christ as Lord
- we talked about the Shoots – this is _____ for the Lord Jesus Christ
- we talked about the Fruits – note that these fruits are the _____ of God in our life
 - 1) we are rooted in Christ by God’s _____
 - 2) we are established in _____ by God’s grace
 - 3) we are _____ up in Christ by God’s grace
 - 4) we _____ with thankfulness to God because of God’s grace
- now we enter a section where Paul issues a _____ to the Colossians and points them to the truths of Jesus Christ

Outline:

- 1) (2:8) Watch Out
- 2) (2:9-10) Who is Jesus?
- 3) (2:11-12) What Jesus Did!

1) (2:8) Watch Out

(2:8a) See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit,

- “the see to it” could also be translated “watch _____” or “be careful”
- this Greek word which is translated “see to it” has the idea of _____ out because something is hazardous
- this is standing on _____ against something that could be a potential hazard
- we see lots of _____ signs in Northern Ontario, some of them have deer and moose on them
- this means we are to _____ out for them so we do not run into them and experience harm
- this same _____ is given by the Lord Jesus Christ as he speaks about the end times in Matthew 24!

Matthew 24:4-5 And Jesus answered them, "See that no one leads you astray. ⁵ For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and they will lead many astray.

- there will be people who will _____ to be the messiah but they make _____ claims because there is only one Messiah the Lord Jesus Christ
- so let us “watch out”!
- Paul _____ us/them “see to it” that no one takes them “captive”!
- this “_____” word uses the imagery of a person being taken away in slavery
- Paul warns us that there are two things that can make us _____ or take us captive

a) philosophy

- now when you think of philosophy you might think of Rene Descartes who said "I think therefore I am"
- so you might wonder "is it a _____ to read a philosophy book?"
- Paul is not denouncing the _____ of philosophy in general but is warning against the dangerous _____ that lead people _____ from following Jesus

b) empty deceit

- not only are they to _____ against deceit but deceit that has no substance or value
- this word "deceit" in other parts of the _____ Testament is often connected to _____ things

i) the deceitfulness of _____

ii) the deceitfulness of _____

- if you are finding comfort or _____ in riches then you are deceived
- if you are finding _____ or joy in sin then you are deceived

- sin and riches _____ hopes and promises that they can _____ truly deliver on!
- money _____ save you at the coming of Jesus Christ and there is not a chance that the sin, that you _____, will save you at the coming of Jesus Christ
- Jesus Christ _____ saves!

(2:8b) according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.

- this "philosophy" and "empty deceit" has two sources
- human tradition and the elemental spirits fuel this philosophy and empty deceit that Paul warns that we are "watch out for"

- first, this "philosophy and empty deceit" have their source in _____ opinion and human origin
- this means that they do not have their _____ in the Word of God
- second, their source is found in the elemental spirits of the _____
- the "elemental spirits" are the _____ forces in this world
- so this philosophy and empty deceit are from _____ and satanic forces

- and do you see how Paul ends this _____?
- Paul says this philosophy and empty deceit does not have their source in _____ Christ
- Jesus is the source of _____ – He is the way and the _____ and the life (John ____:6)

- Jesus Christ has nothing to do with these _____ and deceitful ideas that Paul is warning these Colossians about

- again we see Jesus Christ as the _____ of the church and therefore we must look to Jesus for our direction and _____!

- in Jesus there are all _____ of wisdom and knowledge

Colossians 2:3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

2) (2:9-10) Who is Jesus?

(2:9) For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,

- Paul reminds these Christians of the _____ of the Lord Jesus Christ

- _____ uses what might seem to be some confusing language

- some _____ take this verse to teach that Jesus is not God just that God dwells within Jesus

- but this verse points us back to what Paul has already said about Jesus in the great hymn in Colossians 1:19

Colossians 1:19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,

- all the _____ of God dwells in Jesus (Colossians 1:19) and all the _____ of deity dwells in Jesus (2:10)

- this can only mean one thing that Jesus is without question _____

- this verse speaks clearly about the incarnation which means that God assumes _____ nature in the person of Jesus Christ who is fully God _____ fully man

- we know that every _____ (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) declare that Jesus is _____ and now we have Paul making another clear declaration in Colossians that _____ is God

(2:10) and you have been filled in him,

- I love this verse because it teaches us the amazing benefits of _____ in the Lord Jesus Christ

- this is a definitive action done by the Lord on our _____

- we have been fulfilled or we have become _____ or we have fullness of life in Christ

- this verse speaks about the satisfaction and _____ that only Jesus can offer the person who is _____ in sin

- I remember in high school getting blasted by teachers that if I did not work hard I would have a horrible life

- now I talk to my fellow students who worked hard and became successful and they do not have the wonderful life that was promised

- these people who are living without Jesus are _____ God or hope in this world

- you might not have brains, looks or money but if you are in Christ you have the fullness of _____

- do not embrace the _____ deceit of our culture that teaches that you need X Y or Z to have fullness of life

- for thousands of years humanity has tried to preach that _____ is found in what you are, what you do or what you have, but a book written thousands of years ago tells us otherwise

Ecclesiastes 1:2 Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

- so embrace _____ and Him alone because Jesus alone brings contentment and _____!

Who is the head of all rule and authority.

- Jesus is described here as "the _____" just like Paul talks about Jesus being the head of the church in Colossians 1:18

- but the headship, or _____ of the Lord Jesus, extends outside the church to _____ authority

- Jesus reigns and rules over _____ things – praise His holy name!

3) (2:11-12) What Jesus Did!

- the Lord Jesus is fully _____ and _____ man
- the Lord Jesus is head of _____ rule and authority but the Lord Jesus has done ___ amazing acts on behalf of Christians

a) Circumcised you

(2:11) 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,

- the first work of Christ on _____ of Christians is spiritual circumcision
- when Paul talks about circumcision in Colossians he is not referring to the physical _____ of circumcision that we see in Genesis _____ with God's covenant with Abraham
- we know this because Paul says that this circumcision is done without _____
- in Colossians 2:11 Paul is referring to a spiritual circumcision where God circumcises our _____
- this is the _____ of God is the Lord giving us transformed hearts to _____ Him and the gift of the Holy Spirit

- Paul talks about this circumcision in the book of Philippians

Philippians 3:3 For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and _____ in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh--

- this _____ of God which is the circumcision of hearts, has been accomplished by the circumcision of Christ which refers to the _____ of Jesus upon the Cross
- Paul, describing the death of Jesus as circumcision, _____ the suffering of Jesus Christ upon the cross
- we see again another _____ of the death of Jesus Christ, our lives are changed and we are _____ in this spiritual circumcision

b) Buried you

(2:12) having been buried with him in baptism,

- the second work of Jesus Christ on behalf of believers is that they are _____ with Him in baptism
- the baptism that Paul is referring to here is the _____ baptism or the baptism of the _____ Spirit
- Spiritual Baptism is the _____ of God giving to us the Holy Spirit and we are regenerated
- Paul addresses this same topic in the book of _____

Romans 6:4-5 We were _____ therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

- water Baptism is the _____ expression of an _____ reality
- you are buried, meaning you go down under to symbolize your _____ to sin
- and then you are raised up to show the new _____ that you have in Jesus Christ

c) Raised you

in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.

- the third _____ of God is that we are raised with Christ and this as well helps us understand our _____ Baptism

- you are lifted out of the water because if we keep you buried under the water you will certainly not be alive

- but you are lifted up _____ of the water to symbolize that you truly have _____ life in Jesus Christ

- the circumcision, death with Christ and new life in Christ are the results of the work of Christ and we receive these blessings through _____

- “_____ in Christ” or “faith in Christ” is the means by which God gives us these amazing blessings

- isn't this also amazing that the same _____ of God that raised Christ from the _____ is the same power that works in us to give us life

- the resurrection of Jesus Christ is a miracle, yes and amen, but so is God giving life to someone who is _____ in sin

- through _____ we have new life so let us praise the Lord

Application

1) See the Fullness of Life that is Found in Christ

- as a Christian, do you know and experience the _____ of life found in the Lord Jesus Christ? Colossians 2:10 is very clear, “and you have been _____ in him”

- Jesus brings a filled, _____ and complete life to those who _____ in Him

- let us look at this “_____ life” that the Lord Jesus gives as described in the book of Colossians

- the amazing thing about this exercise is you can do it yourself, by choosing any New Testament book

- you read it and then write down the blessings of knowing Christ found in that book

- Here is what you can find in Colossians about the _____ of life found in Christ

1:5 – there is _____ stored up for the believer in heaven

1:12 – God the Father qualifies the _____ to share in the inheritance of the saints

1:13 – the believer is delivered from the domain of _____

- the believer is transferred to the _____ of Jesus Christ

1:14 – the believer has _____ which describes the work of Christ and His deliverance from the bondage of sin

- the believer has _____ of sins

1:20 – there is reconciliation between us and God because our sins have created _____ between us and God

- in Jesus Christ and His work on the Cross we have _____ with God

1:22 – in _____ we can have reconciliation with God

- because of Christ we are presented before God as holy, _____ and above reproach

1:27 – knowing Jesus is described as _____

- the Christian has the presence of Christ in them “Christ in you”

- but this goes even further, the Christian has the hope of the _____ of God
- 2:11 – in Christ the Christian is circumcised in the _____
- they have received the _____ of the Holy Spirit
- 2:12 – the Christian has been _____ or died to sin
- the Christian has been _____ to new life in Jesus Christ
- 2:13 – God makes alive those who are dead in sin
- 2:14 – through Jesus Christ we have our record of _____ cancelled
- 3:1 – you have been raised with Christ which means you have _____ life
- 3:4 – when Christ appears at His 2nd coming the believer will be gathered with Him in _____

- the worldly philosophy that Paul speaks out against in this book only brings _____ and darkness
- this worldly philosophy does not bring the _____ that is found in Christ, instead this empty deceit leaves us dead in sin
- BUT Jesus brings fullness of _____
 - 1) Reconciliation between us and God
 - 2) Forgiveness of sins
 - 3) the hope of heaven
 - 4) joy in the Lord

- as a believer in Jesus Christ you are called to anchor yourself in these _____
- when you get into the Word of God every day look for the _____ of Christ that is so evident in the Word of God
- _____ yourselves of these truths, preach to yourselves these truths
- when you are beaten down by a sin, remind yourself that Christ has _____ all your sins
- when this sinful world beats you down and makes you weary remind yourself of the hope stored up for you in heaven so you are strengthened and _____

- if you are _____ of Jesus Christ and do not know him, you need to know that this fullness of life will only be yours if you turn from your sin and trust in the work of Christ
- on your own you are _____ in sin and alienated from God
- do not trust any longer in the sinful philosophy of this world but _____ to Jesus Christ who gives abundant life

- hear the _____ of Jesus Christ

John 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have _____ and have it abundantly.

- _____ in Christ and have a filled life and abundant life

2) Watch Out

- we know that our hearts are deceitful as Jeremiah says (Jeremiah 17:9)
- we know that each one of us can be prone to wander from the Lord as the great hymn “come thou font of every blessing” says
- so how do we watch out or look out so we are not led astray by false ideas!

a) Stay in the Word

- you may have heard the youth group sayings, that are easy to memorize that encourage us to read the Bible

- here are a couple:

- "A Bible that's falling apart usually belongs to someone who isn't." — Charles Spurgeon
- "The Bible will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from the Bible." — Dwight L. Moody

- and we do not have to look any farther than Psalm 119 to _____ that the two above statements are true!

Psalm 119:11 I have stored up your word in my _____ , that I might not sin against you.

- it is amazing how far we can get from the Lord when we abandon His _____

- when we _____ to get into God's Word and obey God's Word it is truly dangerous for our souls

- so we have a personal responsibility to _____ in the Word of God

- but we also have a corporate responsibility – we need to stay in _____ with Christians

b) _____ in Fellowship with Christians

- never in my life have I seen in Canada such a complete disregard for God's commands and such disregard for the bride of Jesus Christ who is the _____

- God gives us to the church, the body of Christ, as a means of _____ to encourage us as we seek to be faithful to Jesus Christ

- when you isolate yourself from _____ you isolate yourself from the preaching of God's Word, the corporate worship of God, using your gifts as God has commanded you to do and the fellowship of other believers

- there is no mistake when the author of Hebrews writes this about our need to be connected to a local church.

Hebrews 10:24-26 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. ²⁶ For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,

- I am shocked that many professing Christians are living as though the Day of the Lord is not _____ !

- being connected to a local church helps us _____ against being deceived and even protects us from being deceived by the _____ and sinful philosophies that are out in the world

- Christian be in the word daily and be in church with fellow believers _____ !

Next Week:

- Colossians 2:13-15