**Complete In Christ**

**Introduction:**

Our text is primarily a warning. We can become unfaithful and fall from favor in God’s eyes. The answer or remedy is Christ. He’s all we need. We must be rooted and grounded in Him; we must walk in Him. We must stay close to Him at all times and not follow afar off as Peter did. We must remain committed to His truth and submit to His authority. These preventive steps will keep us from wandering away from the One in Whom all the fullness of the Godhead dwells.

**Text:** Colossians 2:4-10

**Body:**

1. **Never Let Anyone Deceive Us** Colossians 2:4-5 “Now this I say lest anyone should deceive you with persuasive words. For though I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.” NKJV Colossians 2:3 “In whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” In this preceding verse, we see that in Christ are hidden all treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Do not be deceived by false reasoning, persuasive words, that seem plausible, but are not based on truth. It sounds possible or even right, but isn’t! Paul uses these words to describe those who draw erroneous conclusions from evidence. There were those in Colosse who were saying that Christ was not sufficient, that all treasures of wisdom and knowledge were not in Him. Paul was warning these Christians not to fall for their persuasive speech. (Romans 16:17-18) “Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.” NKJV These types of people are still with us and we must be aware. We must have a firm grip on the truth! Paul rejoiced that, as a whole, they were not being deceived and were not falling for these false teachings. There was “good order;” they did not break rank or walk out of step. Everyone was in his place and all were walking by the same rule. They were “steadfast” Christians with a solid front; their faith was stable, not wavering.

(I Corinthians 15:58) “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.” NKJV

1. **Be Rooted and Grounded in Him** Colossians 2:6-7 “As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.” NKJV

 To receive Christ was to receive His words or teachings. Accept them. (John 12:48) “He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him – the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.” NKJV This led them to be “joined” to Christ. (Galatians 3:27) “For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” NKJV “Lord” – We must acknowledge Him as Lord. (Luke 6:46) “But why do you call Me Lord, Lord, and not do the things which I say?” NKJV Being humble, submitting to Him as Lord, and obeying was to characterize their lives after baptism as well. “Walk” – Conduct, live. “Rooted” – Be firmly planted, not shallow but deep, in Christ and His Word. “Built up” – Continue to grow and mature through studying His Word and allowing it to edify us. (Ephesians 4:15) “but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head – Christ” – NKJV “Established” – Our faith must continue to grow stronger and firmer through the faith. It is a lifetime process. (I Thessalonians 4:1) “Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God;” NKJV Overflowing with thanksgiving.

1. **Remain Committed to the Truth** Colossians 2:8 “Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.” NKJV

“Beware; here is another warning. It is a very real danger. “Cheat” – Capture, carried away from the truth and taken into the slavery of error. “Philosophy” – Profitless speculation They seek to find answers to life’s most important questions apart from the Word of God. “Empty deceit” – Worthless deceptions “Traditions of men” – Teachings of men that contradict the teachings of God Listen to these words of Paul. (I Corinthians 1:19-21, 26) “For it is written: ‘I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, And bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.’ Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world thorough wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. 26 For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called.” NKJV Paul informed Timothy “. . .that in latter times some would depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons.” (I Timothy 4:1) (I Timothy 4:3) “forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.” NKJV Look at the world around us. There are multiple kinds of human philosophies: evolution, situation ethics, oriented mysticism, New Age, much of modern psychology, etc. All these are opposed to God and are capturing people and making them slaves of error. The remedy is to remain committed to the Truth. (II Timothy 2:25-26) “in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.” NKJV

1. **Submit to Christ, Who Is the Head** Colossians 2:9-10 “For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.” NKJV The divine nature, deity, dwells in Christ and resides in Him permanently. He possesses all attributes and powers of deity. He is fully God. (John 1:14) “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” NKJV Because He is God, we can be assured that all our spiritual needs will be supplied in Him.

(Ephesians 1:3) “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,” NKJV Forgiveness, salvation, hope, peace, love, joy are spiritual blessings. He is head over all rule and authority. (Ephesians 1:20-21) “which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.” NKJV If we desire those blessings just named, we must submit to His authority. If we do so, we can truly be “complete in Him.”

**Invitation:**

How can I be complete in Him? First, read Galatians 3:26-27. “For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” NKJV Then, continue to honor Him as Lord by living according to His Word.

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