

# The MYSTERY

Hidden for Ages

## Is Now REVEALED

*A Study of the Book of Colossians*

LESSON 11

This Week's Passage:  
**Colossians 2:6–10**

New International Version (NIV)

<sup>6</sup> So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, <sup>7</sup> rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

<sup>8</sup> See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ. <sup>9</sup> For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, <sup>10</sup> and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority.

**Memory Verse: Colossians 2:2**

<sup>2</sup> *My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ,*

**Day One: Read Colossians 2.  
Reread Colossians 2:6–7.**

**Colossians 2:6–7**

“is the heart of Paul’s message”<sup>1</sup>:  
Everything in the believer’s life –  
from start to finish – is to be  
centered on Christ.

1. How had the Colossians “received Christ Jesus as Lord” (v. 6)? (1:3–6; Eph. 2:8)

Why do you think it is important for them to be reminded of this?

2. Paul says, “continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness” (vv. 6–7). What does this kind of encouragement seek to guard against?

3. What does it mean for Jesus Christ to be **Lord** in the believer's life?  
Lk. 6:46–48

Jn. 13:13–15

2 Cor. 5:15

Col. 1:10

The New Testament believers recognized Christ not only as the ruler (Lord) of their community but also “as ruler of the world.... Since Christ has...been raised to the position of [Lord], all powers have been subjected to him and must serve him.”<sup>2</sup>

4. In verse 7, Paul uses two metaphors for the Christian faith.  
a. What picture does the word “rooted” bring to mind?

Why do you think Paul uses this image?

- b. What picture does the phrase “built up” bring to mind?

Why do you think Paul uses this image?

While it may appear that Paul is mixing his metaphors here, he may not be “since the word ‘rooted’ was also used in his day for sinking the foundations of buildings”.<sup>3</sup>

5. What was the foundation of the Colossians' faith? (1:21–22; 2:13–14)

## Day Two: Read Colossians 2:6–10.

6. In chapter 1, Paul observes how the Colossians came to faith by hearing the gospel and emphasizes that this same gospel is responsible for their ongoing growth. In Colossians 2:6, he reiterates this idea. Why do you think Paul repeats himself?

7. What resources has God given believers to be strengthened in the faith? (Eph. 3:16–19; Col. 1:11)
8. Continuing to live in Christ results in a life “overflowing with thankfulness” (v. 7). Look back at Colossians 1. What are some of the blessings believers have to be grateful for?

Take time to thank God for the resources and blessings he has given you in Christ.

### **Day Three: Read Colossians 2:6–10.**

“What has been stated positively in verses 6–7, namely, ‘Continue to live in Christ Jesus the Lord,’ is stated negatively in verses 8–10..., ‘Do *not* allow yourselves to be carried away by any teaching that is *not according to Christ*...’”<sup>4</sup>

9. What does the idea of being taken captive (v. 8) convey...  
...about the one being taken captive?  
  
...about the one who takes captive?
10. “Paul...was deeply concerned about the false teaching...[that] might tend to undermine the confidence of the Colossians in Christ as their complete Savior. He calls this subversive system of thought and morals, of rules and regulations ‘philosophy and empty deceit.’”<sup>5</sup>
  - a. What do the words “hollow” and “deceptive” tell you about this philosophy?
  - b. Who is the source of this hollow and deceptive philosophy? (2:8; 2 Cor. 11:13–15)
  - c. Why is Paul concerned that this philosophy might be attractive to the believers? (2:4, 8)

11. How can believers practically guard themselves and others against being taken captive? (vv. 6–7; 3:1–2; Eph. 4:15; Heb. 10:23–25)

### Day Four: Read Colossians 2:9–10.

“[B]ecause...all the fullness of the divine nature dwells in Christ and *because* we have been made complete in him and in no other, we have no need for human reasoning that purports to give us something that Christ didn’t provide.... ‘In him you have been made complete’ [v. 10, NASB]. There is fullness in only one: Jesus. In him, and therefore in no one else, you will find every resource, every truth, and all power.”<sup>6</sup> For a more in-depth look at verse 9, you may refer back to Lesson 6.

12. What contrast do you see between the philosophy described in verse 8 and the life in Christ described in verse 10? (📖\* Eph. 3:16–19)
13. In Colossians 2:10b, Paul says that Christ is the “head over every power and authority.” Why do you think that is good news for believers?

### Day Five: Read Colossians 1—4.

14. When we compare the philosophy of this world with the riches that are ours in Christ it is hard to imagine choosing the worldly philosophy. Yet our flesh is always looking for ways to look good and measure up and Satan is always trying to draw us away from Christ.
- Where do you tend to look to for purpose and meaning outside of Christ?
  - What have you learned from this lesson that can protect you from being “taken captive” and keep you looking to Christ for your meaning and purpose?

\*📖 Indicates verses for further study

<sup>1</sup> Douglas J. Moo, *The Letters to the Colossians and to Philemon* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2008), 177.

<sup>2</sup> Colin Brown, ed. *The New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology*, Vol. 1 (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1986), 514.

<sup>3</sup> Dick Lucas, *The Message of Colossians & Philemon* (Downers Grove: IVP, 1980), 91.

<sup>4</sup> William Hendriksen, *Philippians, Colossians and Philemon* (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1985), 108.

<sup>5</sup> Hendriksen, 108.

<sup>6</sup> Sam Storms, *The Hope of Glory: 100 Daily Meditations on Colossians* (Wheaton: Crossway, 2007), 162-163.