

We Are Complete in Him

Passage: Colossians 2:6-15

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

⁸ See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces^[a] of this world rather than on Christ.

⁹ For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, ¹⁰ and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority. ¹¹ In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh^[b] was put off when you were circumcised by^[c] Christ, ¹² having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

¹³ When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you^[d] alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, ¹⁴ having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.^[e]

It's Not the End

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

Points to Reflect

- Paul was giving instructions to the Colossians to continue to live out their lives in Christ even after receiving Him as their Lord.
- In v6, "...as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live...."
- Accepting Jesus Christ into our lives as Lord is not the end of the journey, rather it's the actual beginning of our walk with God.
- Paul urged the Christians to continue to be rooted and strengthened in the faith.
- We all have accepted Jesus Christ as Lord & Saviour of our lives. Even if we don't remember the exact date, year or time we came to Christ, we would remember the occasion that led us to Him.
- What exactly is receiving Jesus Christ into our lives as Lord means?
- It means we come fully under His control, guidance, and Lordship, where we deny ourselves and obey Him with all our heart.
- He becomes our Master and every area of our lives is submitted 100% to His control.
- **Galatians 2:20** says, "²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

- When we receive Him as Lord, His ways, will and plans becomes ours. We surrender and submit to His guidance and we do it joyfully knowing He cares and loves us.
- Once we have received Christ, we need to grow in Him.
- We can't be stagnant in our walk with the Lord. We need to grow and develop in Him.

As you are rooted, be built up in Him

As you are taught, be strengthened in Him

- These principles refer to spiritual growth and development in Him.

As you are rooted, be built up in Him

¹³ *Those on the rocky ground are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away. **Luke 8:13***

- When a plant has shallow roots, it may initially grow but withers quickly and will die. The plant will not be able to endure the pressure brought by different seasons and climate.
- Same goes with our spiritual walk with Him. We need to be rooted in Christ and have an intimate relationship with God.
- It's difficult for us to grow if we just read something from the bible and rush through the day on our daily routine without giving thought to what we read.
- These processes of being in His presence, seeking Him and meditating on His word, helps us to be rooted and built up in Him.

As you are taught, be strengthened in Him

¹⁷ *So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. **Romans 10:17***

- Besides our personal time with God, we need to come together with other believers, and allow God's Word to be taught to us.
- As we hear the Word of God, it will increase our faith in Him, and we will be strengthened in Him.
- In **Acts 8:31**, ³¹ *"How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him."*
- In **Acts 8:26-40**, God used Philip to teach the Ethiopian. The Ethiopian accepted Christ and even was baptized by Philip after learning the truth from the scripture.
- Both these processes are needed and its important in our growth and development in our walk with God.
- We should not be stagnant in our walk with God. Spiritual growth and development take time but it's necessary and Paul was urging the Christians to do it.
- In **Colossians 1:10**, ¹⁰ *so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,"*
 - What happens when we don't adhere to this instruction?
 - What happen when we don't take any initiative to grow in the Lord?

Slaves to deception

⁸ See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces⁹ of this world rather than on Christ.

Points to reflect

- Paul was warning the church to stand their guard against “hollow and deceptive philosophy” which will take them into captivity.
- These philosophies are from human traditions and Satan is behind these teachings. The only way for the Colossians to stand against these hollow deceptive teachings is by being rooted in the Word of God
- The main issue the church was facing back then was the teaching of Judaizers – whereby it promotes the idea that we need to work and do something from our part in order to earn the salvation given to us.
- **Ephesians 2:8-9** clearly states, *“⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.*
- Salvation is a free gift from God given to us because He is gracious and loving and it’s His doing. None of us can add or work our way to earn right standing before God.
- Spiritual growth is needed in our life as it helps us to take our stand in the Lord and reject any false or deceptive philosophy.
- What are some of the teachings or deceptive philosophy that we face today.

Astrology / Horoscopes

- God created the universe and everything in it – galaxies, stars, and moon. But taking into consideration the date & time we were born, and how these stars and planets determine what will happen in our future is definitely false belief.
- In **Jeremiah 31:35** it says, *“³⁵ This is what the LORD says, he who appoints the sun to shine by day, who decrees the moon and stars to shine by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar—the LORD Almighty is his name:”*

Yoga

- “Yoga is the journey of the self, through the self, to the self.” -- The Bhagavad Gita
- Yoga is beyond postures and physical exercise. Yoga teaches one to focus on oneself instead on the one true God.
- In **2 Timothy 3:16**, *“¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness...”*

Karma

- A belief that all good and bad things you do in this life affect how good or bad your future life will be.
- We as Christians don’t believe in re-incarnation & our good deeds doesn’t decide our right standing before God. We are saved by His grace, and His grace alone

- **Ephesians 2:8-9** it clearly states, *⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.*

Prosperity Gospel

- It's a religious belief among some Christians that financial blessings and physical wellbeing are always the will of God for His children and faith will increase one's material wealth.
 - The very focus of our relationship with God is to seek and have our material needs met.
 - In **Matthew 6:19-21** says, *¹⁹"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*
- These deceptive man-made teachings, where Satan himself is the author, is very subtle and we cannot see it.

The fullness of Christ

⁹For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, ¹⁰and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority.

Points to reflect:

- Jesus Christ is the fullness of God and everything about God is expressed in human form.
- Jesus Christ is complete, and He brings that completeness and wholeness into our lives.
- **Matthew 28:18**, *¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."*
- He is Sovereign and He is the head over every power and authority. Jesus Christ is the highest authority & there are no spiritual forces or higher authority than Him.
- He is the fullness of God and He has made us whole and complete in Him.

Completeness when we enter a new covenant with God through faith

¹¹In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self-ruled by the flesh[Ⓛ] was put off when you were circumcised by[Ⓛ] Christ,

Points to reflect:

- The verse speaks on circumcision, but this is not circumcision performed by human hands but rather a direct intervention from God.
- Genesis 17 speaks on the covenant God made with Abraham.
- **Genesis 17:9-13**, *⁹Then God said to Abraham, "As for you, you must keep my covenant, you and your descendants after you for the generations to come. ¹⁰This is my covenant with you and your descendants after you, the covenant you are to keep: Every*

male among you shall be circumcised. ¹¹ You are to undergo circumcision, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and you. ¹² For the generations to come every male among you who is eight days old must be circumcised, including those born in your household or bought with money from a foreigner—those who are not your offspring. ¹³ Whether born in your household or bought with your money, they must be circumcised. My covenant in your flesh is to be an everlasting covenant.”

- Covenants are God's agreements to His people which comes with some conditions of the relationship, promises and consequences if the conditions are unmet.
- God entered a covenant with Abraham and his descendants by the act of circumcision
- When Christ died for us on the Cross, we enter a new covenant with God not by the circumcision of the flesh, but rather through the circumcision of the heart.

Completeness when we died and raised with Him

¹² *having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.*

Points to reflect

- Paul reminds us that we have died and buried with Him in baptism and our old self have been put to death. And because we believe in Him, we are also raised with him.
- In **Romans 6: 3-4** says, “³ Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”
- We are united and are in union with Christ. We have been set free from sin.
- **Romans 8:38-39**, “³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,^[k] neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
- We have been reconciled with God and we belong to Him. Nothing can separate us from God.
- We are complete because we are in union with Him.

Completeness when Jesus paid the ultimate price on Cross

¹³ *When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you^[d] alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, ¹⁴ having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.*

Points to reflect:

- Real issue here is sin & our sins are great. The debt is huge.
- We didn't seek God but He came seeking us. It was His love for us that made him die on the cross. He paid the full price for us.
- In **John 19:30** its written, “³⁰ When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.”

- When Jesus said, "it is finished", he meant there was nothing else to do, nothing else left to pay.
- When Jesus died on the cross, all our sins, brokenness, shame, rejection, incompleteness and emptiness were on him. And when Jesus rose again, he displayed his power and authority over every other *powers and authorities*. Jesus triumphed over these things and stood victorious.
- Christ dwells in us and we are complete in Him.

Closing

- The world we live in is really messed up and broken. Sin destroys every beautiful thing that God created.
- In **1 Peter 1:18-19** it says, *"¹⁸ For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect."*
- Jesus Christ is the perfect lamb of God, who died for us and paid the ultimate price on the cross for us. He is our perfect substitute.
- Let us be reminded everyday on what he has done for us on the cross, how he has made us complete in Him and to whom we belong to. Amen

Prayer Points

Colossians 1:10, “¹⁰so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,”

- Pray for earnest desire to be in His presence & to know Him intimately
- Pray for growth and development in our walk with God by being rooted in His word
- Pray to live a life of freedom and completeness in Him.

Church

- God will use us as His witnesses wherever we are to shine for His glory
- As we wait before Him, God will anoint us with His Spirit and give us fresh vision and direction for our lives
- Church will continue to grow and develop in His Word
- God will lead & guide us as we resume our physical service on 7th Nov 2021
- God will give us breakthroughs as we face challenges in our lives
- Youths & children will grow in His likeness
- Pr Adam’s spiritual retreat: rest, refresh, listen to God’s voice
- Ministries :
 1. Life Explorers
 2. Redeeming Roses
 3. Sunday School
 4. Worship Team
 5. Lifeline
 6. Life Seed

Pregnancy

- Alex & Santhana
- Paul & Yee Leng

Covid19

- Economy recovery
- Pray for vaccination program, especially as teens have started to receive their vaccinations
- Healing and comfort for those who sick and have lost their lives due to Covid
- Pray for all the front liners and their mental well beings

Malaysia

- Pray for wisdom and leadership as many sectors are opening up
- Racial Reconciliation
- Churches will unite as one body of Christ and expand the work of God in this land
- Believers will together stand in the gap and pray for the salvation of everyone in the nation