

The Fullness of God in Christ

Colossians 2:9, 10

01/18/15
by Bob DeWaay

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Gospel of Grace Fellowship

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What IS According to Christ

Colossians 2:9 (ESV)

For **in him** the whole **fullness** of **deity** dwells bodily

- “For” refers to vs. 8 which warns of what is NOT according to Christ
- “The philosophy” offered what in fact can only be found in Christ
- “In Christ” is thematic
- “Dwells” is in the present tense in the Greek and “bodily” refers to the manner of dwelling

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Christ Alone: In Christ and With Christ

Colossians 1:19 (NASB)

For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the **fullness** to dwell **in Him**,

- “In Him” – Colossians 2:9
- “In Him – Vs 10
- “In Whom” – Vs 11
- “With Him” – Vs 12
- “With Him” – Vs 13
- “In Him” – Vs 15

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We Have Been Filled in Him

Colossians 2:10a (ESV)

and you **have been filled** in him

- “Having been filled” is a perfect passive which implies “by God”
- There is a play on the words “fullness” and “filled”
- Implication: why listen to what the false teachers promise if you already have fullness?

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The Headship of Christ

Colossians 2:10b (ESV)

who is the **head** of all rule and authority

- Christ is over all powers so the Colossians need not fear them
- Christ created all things (Colossians 1:16)
- This is in keeping with what was stated in the Christ Hymn (Colossians 1:15-20)

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Implications and Applications

- The doctrine of Christ must be taught to the church
- It is important to know what we do have in Christ
- We must reject all forms of pietism

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Christ "Tented" Among Us

John 1:14 (NASB)

And the Word became flesh, and **dwelt** among us, and **we saw His glory**, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, **full of grace and truth**.

- "Dwelt" is literally "tented" and alludes to the tabernacle
- "Grace and truth" alludes to Sinai (Exodus 34:6)
- Jesus is fully human and fully God, the unique One, in whom the glory of God dwells

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Christ Brings Grace Upon Grace

John 1:16 (NASB)

For of His **fullness** we have all received, and **grace upon grace**.

- "Fullness" is *ple_roma* as in Colossians and Ephesians and is found only in Christ
- "Grace upon grace" likely means "grace replacing grace"
- The grace given in Christ is greater than what was found in Moses (see John 1:17)
- "Fullness" is received by all believers

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In Him We Have Grace and Truth

John 1:17 (NASB)

For the **Law** was **given** through **Moses**; **grace and truth** were **realized** through **Jesus Christ**.

- Law is contrasted with grace and truth
- Given "*dido_mi*" is contrasted with realized "*ginomai*"
- Moses is contrasted with Jesus Christ
- Christ is greater than Moses (Hebrews 3:3)
- In Christ we have all grace and fullness

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All Christians Have Fullness in Christ

Ephesians 3:19 (ESV)

and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

- This prayer pertains to all believers, not some elite ones who have special revelations
- “Fullness” is found only in Christ, here the prayer is for believers to have what is communicable in this attribute
- This involves the tension between “already” and “not yet” which is common in Paul’s writings

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