

# Colossians 2:6-23

Jesus is Greater

## Bottom Line:

Jesus is greater than any worldview, any philosophy, any ideology and any belief. Build your life upon the firm foundation of the cross.

## Quote:

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. (Ephesians 2:19-21 ESV)

## Read:

*[6] Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, [7] rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.*

*[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. [13] And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, [14] by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. [15] He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.*

*[16] Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. [17] These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. [18] Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, [19] and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.*

*[20] If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations—[21] “Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch”*

*[22] (referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to human precepts and teachings? [23] These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh. (Colossians 2:6-23 ESV)*

## From the ESV Gospel Transformation Study Bible:

Paul tells Christians about the benefits available by virtue of being united to Christ in order to “walk in him” faithfully and wisely—especially in the face of false teaching. He calls on them to understand all the resources they have in Christ so as to utilize those resources to fight the good fight of faith (1 Tim. 6:12).

Through the use of the simple yet profound phrase “in him,” Paul reveals all the resources available to combat falsehood. In union with Christ, Christians have been rooted, built up, and established in faith (Col. 2:7). In Christ they have been filled with the same authority that Christ possesses (v. 10). In Christ they have been spiritually “circumcised,” or set apart from the realm of the flesh to that of the Spirit (v. 11). In him they have “died” to sin and have been “raised” to new life through Christ’s baptism of death and resurrection (v. 12). In him they have been forgiven of all their spiritual debts because of the cross (v. 13). In him they have the certainty of victory over Satan and death (v. 15).

And in Christ, as Paul has said already numerous times in this letter, believers walk (vv. 6–7). In the same ways that we received Christ—through faith, by grace—we move forward. The gospel is for sanctification, not only justification; for growth, not only conversion. We do what Jesus instructs in the confidence that he knows and will accomplish what is best for our lives, and we are motivated and enabled to do this as he instructs us by his grace.

Paul thus calls on believers who are united to Christ to utilize these promises and benefits and to not be led astray by any teaching that is contrary to the gospel that he taught them (v. 8). For fear that they may fall prey to humanly devised rules regarding true spirituality (vv. 16–18), Paul reminds them of all that they know about Christ and all that they possess in Christ (v. 19). Through faith, believers have the assurance of accessing the resources of the Word and Spirit to remain steadfast amid the storms of false teaching (cf. 1 John 2:26–27).

## Questions:

1. What was your big takeaway from Sunday’s message?
2. Read Colossians 2:6-23
3. Take some time to discuss what this passage teaches about God and mankind.
4. Make a list of all of the various philosophies, traditions, spiritual beliefs that are alive and well in our culture today.
5. Using this passage as a foundation, go through and show how Jesus is superior to each of them.

6. If you are to make Jesus your foundation and build upon him with his resources, what's your next step?
7. FOR PARENTS: Ask your kids about the things they are learning in school and how they may be in opposition to Jesus and the faith. Begin a dialogue with them about the various world views in our culture and how Jesus is greater.