

Putting Christ First: Fullness in Christ

Colossians 2:9-15

Fullness in Christ (v. 9-10)

- Paul asserts that in Christ *alone dwells the fullness* of God (v. 9; see 1:19)
 - Not in some temple
 - Nor dispersed amongst various semi-divine beings (v. 10b)
- Thus, when we find our lives in Christ, we are filled too
 - Paul is countering a claim of false teachers that we need more than just Jesus
 - All that we can know or experience of God is therefore found in our relationship with Jesus
 - We need no other experience from any other source
 - For Jesus, as God, is over them all (v. 10b)

Inclusion in Christ (v. 11-12)

- Paul goes on to describe how we have been made full in Christ
- By circumcision: A symbol of inclusion into God's people
 - Not the physical rite
 - But a spiritual circumcision of our hearts (Deut. 10:16; 30:6; Jer. 4:4; Rom 2:29)
- By baptism: A symbol of inclusion into Christ's death
 - Sharing in His burial
 - In order to share in His resurrection

Alive in Christ (v. 13-14)

- Paul describes our need for death & rebirth
- Before Jesus, our sinfulness left us dead & rebellious
 - Both its natural result & its underlying root (“uncircumcised flesh”)
- But through Christ, God has made us alive
 - By forgiving our sins
 - By legally fulfilling the punishment that our sins deserved on the Cross

Victory in Christ (v. 15)

- Through His death and resurrection, Jesus not only paid for our sins
- But claimed victory over all rebellious powers
 - Both human and spiritual
- Thus, we have nothing to fear from them

So What?

- Do we find our lives in Christ?
 - As Redeemer from sin

- As Conqueror over our rebellious hearts
- Are we living out of that truth?

Meditation Verse: Colossians 2:13