



Sermon Growth Guide

July 28, 2024

Full and Unsatisfied

Colossians 2:6-15

Key Verse: Colossians 2:6-7 “So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, 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.”

Big Idea: Because in Christ, we can know who God is and experience Him fully, we do not need extra “spiritual” experiences.

Foundations

Religions fill the world. Even in our secular age, many seek transcendent spiritual experiences. This tells us that human beings are creatures made to worship. And so, we worship many things hoping that some religious practice will fill us with meaning, purpose and hope.

In his letter to the Colossians, Paul is concerned that these new Christians, in their commendable desire to know and experience God more fully, are looking for God in all the wrong places.

That’s why Paul says in verse 8, “See 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 Christ.” Paul is not against seeking knowledge about the natural world. What he is warning against is using human sources and practices to learn more about God.

According to Paul, we to deepen our knowledge and experience of God by looking at Christ because in Him we see the “fullness of the Deity in bodily form” (verse 9). Scholar Marianne Meye Thompson has said that because all the treasures of the wisdom and knowledge of God are in Christ, to seek deeper or further knowledge of God apart from Christ or in other directions leads not to further hidden treasure but to a dead end

Understanding God’s Word

Read Colossians 2: 6-15

Peter also wants believers to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18). This instruction at the end of his letter, aligns with Paul’s concerns. Discuss: In Christ we have more than enough knowledge of God. How are we to grow in that knowledge? But we can be unsatisfied with what we know of God. How does that happen?

Applying God’s Word

As you read the entire text, Colossians 2:6-15, what do you discover about what Christ has done for you? What kind of identity do you have because of what Christ has done? When Paul writes that we are to be rooted and built up in Jesus, he uses plural verbs. That means that living in the fullness of Christ is not just personal, it also involves the community. What kind of practices in the Word create growth? What kind of fruit can a congregation bear in its surrounding community?

Witnessing God’s Word

Our key verse tells us that when we experience the more-than-enough fullness of the knowledge and wisdom of God, we should be overflowing with gratitude. What are some specific ways you can share your abundance in Christ with others? Pray for opportunities to do so.