

09-08-13

Title: Completeness

Spoke last week about **Colossians 2:8**

...philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world,

If we follow human wisdom – we are kidnapped by the emissaries of satan – by his false system

Leaves an incomplete person

Philosophy is empty deceit – doesn't give us what we expect

Original meaning is a fish hook

Do you think the fish is getting what he expects?

It seduces the mind

It plays on our pride

Always, it deceives

Truth is in the revelation of God

Truth is spoken finally and clearly in Jesus, the Messiah

There is no value in the speculations of human philosophy

Beware of human philosophies about God and the world

What is wrong with the philosophies of this world?

...If nothing else, their foundation

The traditions of men

The elementary principles of this world

If something has been handed down is it true?

Almost all philosophers build on other philosophies

When the foundation is off – what happens to what is built on it?

Almost all philosophy has its roots in

Aristotle and Plato – even today...

Judaism had become a system based on traditions of men

Could tradition just be perpetuated human ignorance?

Jews had traditions, Gentiles had traditions

Do we perhaps have beliefs based on traditions?

What is meant by elementary principles of this world?

The basics, the ABC's , 1, 2, 3...

The elementary teaching of human wisdom

Basics of human religion

What are those basics?

Works – if you're good enough...

Salvation by works

People think they have s. new

It's been around a long time

Just a new twist...

*We shouldn't come with blind unreasoning faith
Instead of bringing philosophical presuppositions which would
color our study of Scripture and so prejudice our interpretation –
we should come conscious of the finiteness of our intellect and
aware that our mind has also been affected by our sinful nature.
We should be willing to be taught by the Holy Spirit and
acknowledge that it is the Word of God rather than our own reason
which is the final arbiter of truth*

Complete in Jesus

Colossians 2:9-10

There are those false systems

The worlds philosophies

Based on the traditions of men

Based on elementary principles...

We have Jesus, the Messiah – God in the flesh

God is enough...

Jesus is fully God

We can therefore be made complete

Since we are rooted in Him

Since we are built up in Him

Since we are firmly established in Him

We are complete

Going to talk about completeness today

What is it? How is it defined? What does it mean to be complete?

How can we be complete? Can we be complete?

For little kids – Mom is completeness

Without Mom they fall apart

Can't be apart from her, she completes them

As we grow, that changes...

Starting in our teens we often look for completeness in a relationship – if only I could have that girl

Sometimes not even that specific – if only I could have a “relationship”

Changing your facebook status from single to in a relationship

As we grow and “mature”

If only I could be married, then I'd be complete

If only I could have kids then I'd be complete

If only I could have the right job, the right house, the right car

If only I had a big enough “portfolio”

If only I...

Many things we look to for completeness

There is really only one place we can look to for completeness

Colossians 2:10

...and in Him you have been made complete

Because Jesus is fully God

We can be complete in Him

Seems to simple doesn't it...

And yet...

Since the fall we are spiritually incomplete

We are out of fellowship w/ God

We live outside of God's will

We are mentally incomplete not knowing ultimate truth

There is something missing in our lives

We are desperately seeking to fill it

(Intro)What if mankind had to leave earth, and somebody forgot to turn the last robot off? Wall-E, spent every day doing what he was made for. But soon he will discover what he was meant for, as he adventures across the galaxy chasing his dream.

At salvation we become...

2 Peter 1:4

...partakers of the divine nature,...

Partakers of the divine nature

We are made complete

We now have fellowship with God

We recognize the authority of God's will

We know the truth and ultimate reality

We were made for, and meant for God

He made us to be in relationship with Him

That was broken long ago, when our great.....grandparents

Disobeyed Him

Ever since – we are searching, looking

Trying to find what we are made for/meant for

We are complete in Christ

Completeness is found only in the Messiah, in Jesus

He is all we need

You and I were designed, made, created...

To be in a relationship with God

Sin entered the world and that relationship was destroyed

We were separated from Him

That means we are incomplete

Something is missing – all our lives

Not doing what we're created for

In Jesus, through His death and resurrection

Because He is God

That relationship can be restored

Jesus is enough, there is nothing else we need

We are complete in Him

Jesus is all we need

Colossians 2:3

3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

In Jesus...

ALL wisdom

ALL knowledge

Think what that says, what that means

All wisdom is in Jesus...

All knowledge is in Jesus...

Are you sure, can you be sure...

Colossians 2:4

I say this so that no one will delude you with persuasive argument.

Everything of value is summed up in Jesus...

Everything of meaning is summed up in Jesus...

Everything relating to life and death and eternity

Everything relating to joy and peace and fulfillment

Philippians 3:8

Often say Christ is part of my life...

Is that accurate?

An important part to be sure...

Is He all?

In Him we have forgiveness of sins

In Him we have eternal life

In Him we are bought back from judgment

Everything comes down to Jesus

Ritual is not enough

Colossians 2:11-12

For the Jews circumcision was a big deal

It was a symbol of God's covenant with them

It was an indication of the need for cleansing

It pointed to their wretchedness

The most profound illustration of our sinfulness

Is seen in what we produce

✚ As cute as my grandbabies are...

They are all sinners

*As a kid I grew up in what is called a "liturgical church"
We had a specific way of doing the service every Sunday
Everything was written out
Didn't matter where you went to church
Everyone had the same hymnal – all did the same thing
The Pastor would say something, we all sang in response
Didn't need the book – had it all memorized
In a way that was comforting, even as a kid
Knew what was to be expected
Same thing every time
It was a ritual
We were doing what we thought we were supposed to
Didn't need to change
Thought this was right...*

The Jews had made circumcision into a ritual
They thought it would complete them
Thought it was right, what they were supposed to do
If they followed the Law, this prescribed pattern...
If we follow the Law, this form, if we do these things...

Circumcision was to be a picture of the spiritual reality
A work done not with human hands
S. that can only done by God's hand

Deuteronomy 30:6

6 "Moreover the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, so that you may live.

Romans 2:29

29 But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter;

We need cleansing at the very core of our being
Circumcision is a symbol of what needed to happen in the heart

When we repent and trust Jesus as Savior
We are cleansed at the core of our being
The body of flesh dies; it is removed, done away with

Baptism is brought in here also
Circumcision is OT, baptism is NT

Baptism can often become the same ritual as circumcision
If I do this act God will be pleased...
So often we think – if I do this God will be pleased
And then I...

In Jesus we are complete...
Not in any ritual...
It is not circumcision
It is not baptism
It is Jesus

When we come to Messiah we are also buried
Buried with Him in baptism
Not talking about water here
Water is a symbol
Don't let the symbol become ritual...

We were literally buried with Him in His death
We die with Him and we rise with Him
This is complete transformation

When we repent and trust Jesus deep cleansing occurs
Like a surgery – cutting out
Like death – rising to new life
I used to be like this, I used to want this
Now it is all changed...
B/c there was a real cleansing
B/c the old self died
There has a rising of the new self, new life

Paid in full

Colossians 2:13

In case you didn't get that...

We were dead in our sins, the uncircumcision of our flesh

He made us alive
He forgave our transgressions, our sins

Colossians 2:14-15

When a criminal was nailed to a cross
His crimes were placed on top
Everyone knew why they were being crucified

Our crimes were placed on Jesus' head when He died on the cross
His death cancelled that debt
Wiped it out – paid it in full – it's gone
In our repentance and trust
We are forgiven, truly cleansed, we died and are
raised to life again, our debt is paid in full

And... satan and his demons – rulers and authorities – no longer
have any power over us – he has been disarmed

When we come to Jesus, the Messiah
When we repent and trust Him
We are forgiven!!!
We receive a new nature, a new disposition
A new heart
We die to our past and rise to new life

Conclusion:

What is completeness?
Where do we find it?
It is not found in ritual...
It is not found in following the law
Not found in circumcision or baptism

Completeness is only found in Jesus, the Messiah
Completeness comes when we repent and trust Him as Savior

We are complete only in Jesus
We are complete as He alone can forgive us
He alone can cleanse us
He alone can give us new life

Have you been made complete in Him?

Come back into the relationship you were made for
... relationship with the One who made you?

Is Jesus just a part of your life or is He all of your life?

Benediction:

1 John 5:11-12

11 And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. 12 He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

Sermon outline
Colossians 2:8-15
Completeness

C _____ in Jesus

R _____ is not enough

Paid in f _____

