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## Christ is All One Needs

by Bill Lockwood

The ancient world was invaded by a philosophical speculative system known as “Gnosticism.” It charmed people by offering occultic insights into “spiritual” realities and secret meanings of the world—much like the current New Age Movement. Nature worship, biocentrism and political correctness are modern outgrowths of the identical concepts. One of the areas that had early infections of Gnosticism was the township of Colossae, and the apostle Paul was forced from prison to write a corrective letter to that church—referred to in our Bibles as “Colossians.”

Colossians offers a strong antidote to speculative philosophies by re-emphasizing the importance of the historical Jesus Christ. To be blunt, Paul shows Jesus Christ is *all that one needs* to be successful in life. Note the following highlights.

(1) In Christ are **all** the treasures of wisdom and knowledge hidden (2:3). What need has one of esoteric insights of enlightenment since Christ offers to everyone all treasures of wisdom? Paul even warns, “*let no one delude you with persuasiveness of speech!*” (2:4). “Persuasiveness of speech” translates from a word literally means “*to fascinate the mind; sophistry; dealing in mysteries.*” Sounds like Paul knew about the “political and educational elite” of our day!

(2) Not only dwelling in Christ is the “fullness” of the Godhead bodily, but **you are made full** in Christ (2:9). Christ is sufficient to supply all that a person needs. In Christ we have “full assurance” or conviction (2:2). A proper understanding of the world, of human nature, and of spirituality is found *only in Jesus*.

(3) All **spiritual reality** is discovered in Christ Jesus (2:17). The Old Testament law as a system of regulations over men is shown to be passed away since Christ nailed it to the cross (2:16). Therefore, the apostle Paul points out “*let no man judge you in respect of a feast day, new moon, or Sabbath day*”—all such things are done away in Christ. These things are a “shadow” of the **reality** in Christ. The word “reality” appears in our translations as “body.” In this instance the inspired writer uses it to demonstrate “spiritual reality” is only in Christ. Who needs more insight into supposed “realities” than is offered by Jesus?

(4) Christ **supplies** everything for which a person actually longs (2:19). Here the church is pictured as the body of Christ (v.18) while all the nutrition and sustenance flows from the Head—Christ. The key is to remain “in Christ!” Some in those churches, just as in today’s churches, were in grave danger of “moving away” from the gospel and being lost (Colossians 1:23). When one moves away from Christ—or falls away (Galatians 5:4)—that person cuts himself off from all spiritual nutrition.

Christians, beware of the New Age assault upon Christian values. Whether it comes from humanism, existential philosophy, evolutionary biology, or Marxian socialistic ideas—the assault seeks to remove the only firm basis of human happiness and orderly society—Jesus Christ!