

**Series:** *Colossians: The Supremacy and Sufficiency of Christ*  
**Lesson:** *Christ's Sufficiency vs. Philosophy*  
**Text:** Colossians 2:8-15 (L7)  
**Date:** Sunday, February 26, 2012

Colonial Hills  
Baptist Church

### INTRODUCTION

Beginning in Colossians 2:8, Paul gets to the heart of his message. He sits in his Romans prison, perhaps with Pastor Epaphras beside him, and he begins to confront the Colossian heresy that Epaphras has just told him about. He is burdened for these believers to continue in Christ, even as they first received Him (2:6-7), and such instruction is what they just needed more of in the face of persuasive false teaching. Since Christ is supreme and sufficient, they didn't need something else; they just needed a better recognition of what they already had in their relationship with Jesus Christ.

The first aspect of the Colossian heresy that Paul begins to address is philosophy. In this passage, Paul first offers a warning and then explains his reason for such a warning.

### THE WARNING: BEWARE OF \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 8).

1. *Its* \_\_\_\_\_

2. *Its* \_\_\_\_\_

3. *Its* \_\_\_\_\_

### *Application:*

### THE REASON: CHRIST IS \_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 9-15)

1. *Christ is* \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 9).

2. *Christ is* \_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 10-15).

a. *We've been* \_\_\_\_\_ *through our circumcision by Christ (v. 11).*

b. *We've been* \_\_\_\_\_ *through our union with Christ (vv. 12-13a).*

c. *We've been* \_\_\_\_\_ *through the death of Christ (vv. 13b-14).*

### *Application:*

### CONCLUSION

We could have included verse 15 as a fourth result of Christ's sufficient work. However, it provide a fitting and climactic conclusion for our lesson. This verse has been explained in two different ways depending on how one interprets "principalities and powers." Some interpret it to refer to Christ's disarming of evil angels, by exposing and disgracing them publicly as He triumphed over them by His cross. Others take it to depict God's divesting Himself of mediatory angels through whom He had given the Law, since He had fully accomplished salvation in Christ, and thus leading them in triumph. Both interpretations highlight the great victory that has been accomplished by our sufficient Christ.

Why would we allow human philosophy and worldly wisdom to be our teacher and guide in life, when Christ alone is sufficient for complete deliverance, powerful regeneration, full forgiveness, and cosmic victory? He is the source of spiritual fullness, satisfaction, meaning, and purpose; He provides spiritual life and success, and He brings us back to God in harmony and peace. He must be the foundation of our philosophies.

What is your philosophy of purpose in life? of success? of decision making? of personal growth and development? of parenting? of work? of dating? If your philosophy is not Christ-centered, Christ-focused, Christ-informed, Christ-taught, and Christ-honoring, then you may have been taken captive by the deficient and destructive philosophies of this world. Since Christ alone has the "treasures of wisdom and knowledge," refocus on Him in your pursuit of wisdom.