

Series: *Colossians: The Supremacy and Sufficiency of Christ*
Lesson: *Christ's Sufficiency vs. Self-Effort*
Text: Colossians 2:16-23 (L8)
Date: Sunday, March 4, 2012

Colonial Hills
Baptist Church

INTRODUCTION

Last week, we considered the heresy of pagan philosophy. From Colossians 2:8-15, we learned that human philosophy is *not* the means of spiritual fullness. Our considerations dealt with one's belief, with reason, with logic.

Today, we will consider Colossians 2:16-23 and discover that human effort is *not* the means of spiritual fullness. Our considerations will deal with one's behavior, with rules, with legalism.

Our conclusion will be the same: Christ alone is sufficient!

IS INSUFFICIENT (vv. 16-17).

1. *The explanation*
2. *The expressions*
3. *The evaluation*

IS INSUFFICIENT (vv. 18-19).

1. *The explanation*

2. *The expressions*
3. *The evaluation*

IS INSUFFICIENT (vv. 20-23).

1. *The explanation*
2. *The expressions*
3. *The evaluation*

CONCLUSION

In Colossians 2:8-15, we have learned that human philosophy and self-effort are of no use to attaining spiritual completeness. This conclusion then begs the question: what is the source of spiritual fullness?

Paul has already thoroughly answered that question (1:15-24; 2:9-15), and he begins to apply it to daily living (i.e., our choices, our lifestyle, our relationships, our home, our workplace, our church, our community interactions, etc.) in chapter 3. Paul's message is that the source of satisfaction is not in philosophy, ceremonialism, experientialism, or asceticism; rather, it is in identification—identification in and with the supreme, sufficient Christ.

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth; for ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with Him in glory. (Colossians 3:1-4)