

Title: Where Is All Fullness?

Text: Colossians 1: 19

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Epaphras was the faithful minister of Christ to the church at Colosse. He told Paul how God's grace had worked mightily in them since they heard the grace of God in truth.

**Colossians 1: 7: As ye also learned of Epaphras our dear fellowservant, who is for you a faithful minister of Christ; 8: Who also declared unto us your love in the Spirit.**

Epaphras had obviously told Paul of his greatest fears for this flock. We learn of it from Paul's warning and encouragement to them:

**Colossians 2: 8: Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.**

**Colossians 2: 5: Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth;**

Paul knew how this two-fold desire would be accomplished in them. We find it in what Paul asked God to do for them:

**Colossians 1: 9: For this cause we also, since the day we heard *it*, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;**

**Colossians 1: 10: That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;**

Paul knows there is but one way that this will be accomplished in them.

**Colossians 1: 11: Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;**

As Paul expresses his prayer for them, he begins to praise God. What he says here is indeed, the will of God, the fountain of all spiritual understanding, the strength wherewith God strengthens the believer by his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering and joyfulness. This is the cure for all that is harmful to us

**I. God the Father has made us fit.**

**Colossians 1: 12: Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: 13: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated *us* into the kingdom of his dear Son: 14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, *even* the forgiveness of sins:**

God the Father has drawn us out of our state of corruption in which we were first born by creating us a new through the Holy Spirit.

Believer, right now you are fit to be a partaker of the inheritance of the saints. Believer, right now you are delivered from the power of darkness. Believer, you have been translated into the kingdom of God's dear Son. Believer, you have redemption—you have been bought with the blood of Christ Jesus. Believer, all your sins—past, present, and future—are forgiven.

## II. All Fullness Dwells In Christ the Preeminent

Paul has told his brethren of their redemption. Now he describes our Redeemer.

A. Colossians 1: 15: [Our Redeemer—Christ Jesus] is the image of the invisible God,

The Lord Jesus told Philip: **he that hath seen me hath seen the Father.** Christ Jesus the GodMan is the express image of the triune God—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Col 2:9: For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

Every attribute of God—the glory of God--is seen in Christ Jesus, the Son of man. Moses asked to see God's glory:

Exodus 33: 19: And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy. 20: And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live. 21: And the LORD said, Behold, *there is* a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock: 22: And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a clift of the rock, 23: And I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen.

The glory proclaimed to Moses is in Christ Jesus the Rock of Ages. The glory of his name is seen in Christ Jesus the Firstborn of every creature--Almighty over all. The glory of God's covenant is seen in Christ Jesus. The glory of God full mercy and grace is in Christ Jesus alone. The glory of God's longsuffering. The reason God did not destroy the world when Adam sinned is because the glory of his longsuffering rested in Christ Jesus the Mediator and Surety of his people. God's abundant goodness and truth is in Christ Jesus. The glory of mercy reserved, of iniquity and transgression and sin, of justice satisfied is in Christ Jesus.

Moses saw his back parts, but now brethren, in his resurrection glory, Paul says:

2 Corinthians 4:6 : For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

B. Col 1: 15:--Our Savior, the Man, Christ Jesus is the Firstborn of every creature—that is he is the King, Owner of all things, Heir of all things.

**Colossians 1: 16: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: 17: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.**

C. Colossians 1: 18: And he is the head of the body, the church:

Every elect child, chosen of God belongs to Christ our Head. Every believer from every generation belongs to Christ our Head. And each believer is a member of that body in particular. Christ is the Representative Head from all eternity, the Political Head who reigns over all, and the Economical Head who provides all things for his own.

Ephesians 1:22: And hath put all *things* under his feet, and gave him *to be* the head over all *things* to the church, 23: Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all...4:16: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love...5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

24:...the church is subject unto Christ,...25:...Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26: That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27: That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

#### D. (v18) Christ Jesus is the Beginning.

Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today and forever. He is the High Priest after the order of Melchisedec, having neither beginning of days nor end of days. As Eve was created from Adam, so Christ's bride had her beginning from Christ.

Proverbs 8: 22: The LORD possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old. 23: I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was.

Also, Christ Jesus is the Beginning, the firstborn from the dead. He was the beginning of the first creation. But Adam sinned and plunged us all into spiritual death. The former creation fell into ruin. But Christ Jesus, died in the place of those given to him and he is the beginning of the new creation, the firstborn from the dead. When he sends forth the Spirit and creates each of his redeemed anew, he is our Firstfruits (I Cor 15: 12.)

John 14:19...because I live, ye shall live also.

#### **Colossians 3: 18: that in all *things* he might have the preeminence.**

In all Christ has the Preeminence.

- First in sonship—no one is a son in the sense Jesus Christ
- First in election—God first chose him and chose us in him.
- First in covenant—He is the Surety of God's covenant, the Mediator of God's covenant, and the Messenger of God's covenant.
- First in redemption—our redemption is a Person, he wrought it, he bought it.
- First in life—our Life is a Person—he quickeneth whom he will.
- First to conquer death—he conquered sin, death and hell
- He is preeminent in all his people.

John Owen spoke before the English House of Commons on the 'Greatness of Jesus Christ' and he said: "Christ is the WAY, men without Him are Cain wanderers. Christ is the TRUTH, men without Him are living a lie. Christ is the LIFE, men without Him are dead in trespasses and sin. Christ is the LIGHT, without Him men are in darkness. Christ is the VINE, men without Him are withered branches. Christ is the ROCK, men without Him are carried away by the flood. Christ is the ALPHA and OMEGA, the beginning and the end. He who has not Christ hath not the beginning of good, nor the end of misery. It is better not to be, than to be without Jesus Christ!"

#### E. Here is why? All the reason you and I need.

#### **Colossians 1: 19: For it pleased *the Father* that in him should all fulness dwell;**

"All" takes in everything. "Fullness" means no empty space. But even better, the Spirit of God says of Christ Jesus, in him is ALL FULLNESS.

You and I, by nature, are all emptiness and vanity: an utter lack of merit before God, a total absence of power to gain merit with God, and a complete absence of will to obey God, even if we had the ability to do so.

Romans 7:18: For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing for to will is present with me; but *how* to perform that which is good I find not. 19: For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.

This world is all emptiness.

Ecclesiastes 1:2 Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all *is* vanity...14: I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, all *is* vanity and vexation of spirit.

But in Christ Jesus there is "*all fulness!*"

Walk with me through this letter:

**Colossians 1: 9, Paul said I, desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in ALL wisdom and spiritual understanding;--it pleased *the Father* that in him should all fulness dwell;**

**Colossians 1: 11: Strengthened with ALL might, according to his glorious power, unto ALL patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;--it pleased the Father that in Christ should ALL FULNESS dwell.**

**Colossians 1: 16: ALL things were created by him, and for him: 17: And he is before ALL things, and by him ALL things consist-- it pleased the Father that in Christ should ALL FULNESS dwell.**

**Colossians 1: 20: And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile ALL things unto himself; by him, *I say*, whether *they be* things in earth, or things in heaven.—it pleased the Father that in Christ should ALL FULNESS dwell.**

**Colossians 2: 1: For I would that ye knew what great conflict I have for you, and *for* them at Laodicea, and *for* as many as have not seen my face in the flesh; 2: That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto ALL riches of the FULL assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; 3: In WHOM are hid ALL the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.—it pleased the Father that in Christ should ALL FULNESS dwell.**

**Colossians 2: 8: Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. 9: For in him dwelleth ALL the FULNESS of the Godhead bodily. 10: And ye are COMPLETE IN HIM, which is the head of all principality and power:--it pleased the Father that in Christ should ALL FULNESS dwell.**

**Colossians 2: 13: And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you ALL trespasses;--it pleased the Father that in Christ Jesus should ALL FULNESS dwell.**

**Colossians 2: 16: Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath *days*: 17: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body [all fullness] *is* of Christ. 18: Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, 19: And not holding the Head, from which ALL the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God--Why is that?**

**Colossians 1: 18:..that in ALL HE might have the PREEMINENCE. 19: For it pleased the Father that in Christ should ALL FULNESS dwell.**

### **Application**

First, continue in Christ.

**Colossians 1: 21: And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in *your* mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled 22: In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreprouable in his sight: 23: If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and *be* not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, *and* which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;...27: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: 28: Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:**

Secondly, Paul says put off ALL the deeds of the old man...and put on the new man.

**Colossians 3: 5: Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: 6: For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: 7: In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. 8: But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. 9: Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; 10: And have put on the new *man*, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: 11: Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond *nor* free: but Christ *is* ALL, and in all.**

- All Wisdom and spiritual understanding
- All strength
- All fruits given to us
- All peace with God
- All acceptance with God
- All righteousness
- All holiness
- All redemption
- All reconciliation
- All fullness is in Christ Jesus

Thirdly, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus. Forbear with one another, love one another, forgive one another, encourage one another.

**Colossians 3: 17: And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, *do* ALL in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him. 18: Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. 19: Husbands, love *your* wives, and be not bitter against them. 20: Children, obey *your* parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord. 21: Fathers, provoke not your children *to anger*, lest they be discouraged. 22: Servants, obey in all things *your* masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God: 23: And whatsoever ye do, *do it* heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; 24: Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.**

None other but Christ can turn a sinner from things below to set our affection on things above. All fullness dwells in the Lord Christ and ye are complete in him.

**Colossians 3: 1: If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. 2: Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.**

**3: For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. 4: When Christ, *who is* our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.**