



How to... get everything now Colossians 2:6-15

'The world says we can have everything now; but is it truly everything?'

In a world that promises instant gratification, can we have everything we want now? Paul encourages the Colossians to put down roots. When we give Jesus everything, he doesn't give us back religion, tradition, or teaching. When we give ourselves to Jesus, we receive Jesus Christ himself. He is everything now.

Read

Read Colossians 2:6-15 together. You may want to read the passage in a couple of different versions to get different perspectives (see, for example, <https://www.biblegateway.com>).

Summarise

Before looking at the questions, try and summarise as a group what 2:6-15 is all about. What is Paul's main point in this passage? Are there any parts you don't understand?

Questions

1. Paul encourages the Colossians to continue their lives in Christ – just as they had *received* him, so they must continue to live (or walk) *with* him (2:6). Just as a tree needs deep roots to grow strong, so the Christian needs deep roots to grow. What does it mean to be “rooted in him”? How do we ensure we are “built up” in him (2:7)? *Ephesians 4:11-16 may help – what are the responsibilities of individuals to themselves and to the rest of the body? What are some of the daily and weekly activities you do to build up your faith?*
2. Observe how the words “In Christ,” “in him,” “by him,” and “by Christ” are used repeatedly throughout 2:9-12. What do you think is meant by each of these phrases?
 - “in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form”
 - “you have been given fullness in Christ”
 - “In him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature”
 - “with the circumcision done by Christ”
 - “having been buried with him in baptism”

Try looking up these verses in 'The Message' for a different perspective.

Note on circumcision: In the Israelite faith, cutting away the foreskin was the exclusive sign that man stood in covenant relation with God (see Genesis 17:1-14). Moses and Jeremiah said that outward circumcision must be accompanied by circumcision of one's heart (Deuteronomy 10:16; Jeremiah 4:4) – the hard hardness of heart had to be cut away just like a foreskin. In the New Testament Paul repeatedly faced Jewish Christians who insisted that Gentile Christians had to be physically circumcised in order to become part of the people of God.

Baptism: Just as circumcision is an outward sign of the old covenant, and burial is an outward and public sign that one has died, so baptism is an outward and public sign of faith in Jesus.

3. Despite being in prison, Paul can't seem to praise and thank God enough. Think of someone you know who always seems to "overflow with thankfulness." Have they lived a pain free life or have there been hardships? How do you think God would have you imitate his or her attitude?

"Everything of God gets expressed in him, so you can see and hear him clearly. You don't need a telescope, a microscope, or a horoscope to realize the fullness of Christ, and the emptiness of the universe without him. When you come to him, that fullness comes together for you, too. His power extends over everything" (Colossians 2:9-10, The Message).

4. When we give everything to Jesus we get *him* back - Is Jesus enough for you? If we are honest, many of us would say "Jesus and... being debt free... a nice holiday each year... that promotion... my health... my kids doing well."

Apply

Based on what you have looked at in this study, how do you think Jesus would have you change a perception, an attitude, or an action to more completely follow him this week?

What steps can you take to do this?

- Is there something to worship or thank God for?
- Is there a promise for me to claim or a truth for me to believe?
- Is there something I am convicted about that I need to change or begin doing?
- Is there something or someone I need to pray for specifically this week?
- Is there any relationship I need to work on?