

## The Believer's Completeness in Christ

And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power.  
Colossians 2:10

### Introduction

A. Occasion: false teaching regarding Jesus Christ (denial of His full deity), and salvation (religious works a necessity).

B. Reminder: the issues raised relate to the heart of the Gospel.

### I. The Source of the Believer's Completeness.

A. The Biblical statement: We are complete "in Him."

Salvation is the result of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ through faith, not morality, works, or religious acts.

B. The necessity of understanding the truth.

All revelation and provision are found in Jesus Christ. He alone is the source of the believer's authority and grace.

### II. The Basis of the Believer's Completeness.

A. Jesus Christ came, as our representative. Gal. 4:4,5

But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

B. All believer's are identified in His representation.

The value of His work is imputed to each believer at salvation.

### III. The Illustrations of the Believer's Completeness.

A. Spiritual Cleansing, Vll.

In whom ye are circumcised (cleansed) with the circumcision (cleansing) made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision (cleansing) work of Christ.

The believer, once defiled (Is. 64:6), is now spiritually clean. He has received a spiritual washing (Titus 3:5; Heb. 9:13,14).

B. The Gift of Eternal Life, Vs 12,13.

Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. And you, being dead in your sins and uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him . . . .

The believer, once dead (V 12), is now spiritually alive. He has been given the gift of eternal life (Rom. 6:23).

C. The Forgiveness of Sins, V 13.

. . . Having forgiven you all trespasses.

The believer, once guilty (Rom. 3:23), has been absolved from all his guilt (Heb.10:17).

D. The Gift of Righteousness, V 14.

Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances (laws) that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross.

The believer, once unrighteous (Rom. 3:10), is now justified (declared righteous by God) Rom. 5:1.

E. The Deliverance from Satan, V15.

And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

The believer, once enslaved (Heb. 2:14,15), is now free (Col. 1:13).

IV. The Question Regarding the Believer's Completeness.

A. The Question: if these 5 spiritual blessings depend only on the person and work of Jesus Christ – why do we often fail to have the power, enjoyment, and certainty of such blessings in our daily life?

B. The Answer: We do not live day by day according to the pattern of faith which was manifested in our salvation, V 6.

As ye have therefore received Jesus Christ the Lord, so walk (live) ye in him.

True faith is characterized by the submission and obedience of personal trust. We often fail to manifest such trust. We may have these 5 blessings and yet live without the practical benefits because of our disobedience.

Conclusion: Each of us must ask about our relationship to the Lord Jesus Christ. First of all in regard to salvation and then concerning our daily life of trust.

Victor M. Matthews