

The Supremacy of Christ

Understanding the Gospel

Colossians 2:4-7

Introduction

Our study of Colossians is a letter from one of the early Christian movement leaders. Paul, the apostle, writes this letter while imprisoned in Rome for preaching the gospel. But even in prison, he continues to preach the gospel and guide the Christians in Colossae towards spiritual maturity.

Paul gives a partial description of spiritual maturity when he writes, "that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and *attaining* to all riches of the full assurance of _____, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." (Col 2:2-3 NKJV)

2. Then in verse 4, Paul reveals some critical ingredients of spiritual _____.
3. The Holy Spirit knows we need to know what these ingredients are because if we lack them, we will not be able to mature or help others _____.
4. The first ingredient is making _____ the Lord and Master of your life.

I. Commit to Making Jesus Your Lord and Master

5. Spiritual maturity requires receiving Jesus Christ as _____.
6. You can't mature spiritually until you are _____ spiritually.

7. You accept that Jesus is the one who saves you and gives you _____ life.
8. Jesus is *the* Christ, the _____.
9. God planned for Jesus to come, and He predicted it by the Old Testament _____.
10. Jesus' _____ paid for our sins, and He promised to return to establish God's rule over all humanity.
11. When you receive Christ, the Holy Spirit comes to _____ in your heart and give you the desire and ability to mature spiritually.
12. If you are interested in a fulfilling life and hope to live forever, you must embrace the first ingredient of _____ commitment to Christ.

II. Commit to Learning More About Christ

13. Once you receive Christ, you need to "walk in Him," which is a synonym for _____ spiritually.
14. Before you can become a good teacher you must be a good _____.
15. The _____ is the textbook God has given to us to learn what we need to know to inherit eternal life.
16. How can you become a _____ Christian and teach others if you never study the textbook of life?

17. Paul describes two stages of this crucial ingredient, with two different metaphors. First, he says we need to be _____.
18. Paul also says we need to be "built up and _____."
19. We need to keep adding to our _____ of the gospel for the rest of our lives.

III. Develop a Resistance to Spiritual Deception

20. You must develop a _____ to spiritual deception.
21. Satan usually tries to neutralize you by deception and working through very _____ people!
22. In Colosae teachers were re-inventing Jesus in ways that denied His _____ and minimized the importance of His death.
23. They also advocated _____ spiritual practices.
24. Keep growing in your faith and in the _____ of the gospel, and you will be more aware of deception and less attracted to it.

IV. Fellowship with other Christians

25. The most important way to _____ yourself against deception is to practice the truth and hang out with those who do!
26. _____ makes a very powerful Christian bond.

27. Friends who stick by each other and families that watch out for each other are not easily _____.
28. The Colossians were protected from deception and defeat because they were not _____. They were knit together in the unifying love of Christ.
29. The Colossian church was an organized _____ of caring relationships.
30. They met regularly with their Christian friends to prayerfully read and discuss biblical truth and help one another _____ it to their lives.
31. God created us to live in _____.

Conclusion

Are you isolating yourself from God and other believers? Is there anyone you meet with regularly to deepen your faith in Christ. Is there anyone that you trust to share your struggles, fears, doubts, etc.? Are you able to take correction, or does it make you defensive? Do you have someone's back? Do they have yours? This is how deception gets nipped in the bud, and this is how we grow toward maturity!

ANSWERS

- | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| 1. Understanding | 12. Total | 23. False |
| 2. Maturity | 13. Growing | 24. Knowledge |
| 3. Mature | 14. Student | 25. Protect |
| 4. Jesus | 15. Bible | 26. Fellowship |
| 5. Lord | 16. Devoted | 27. Defeated |
| 6. Born | 17. Rooted | 28. Isolated |
| 7. Eternal | 18. Established | 29. Network |
| 8. Messiah | 19. Understanding | 30. Apply |
| 9. Prophets | 20. Resistance | 31. fellowship |
| 10. Death | 21. Persuasive | |
| 11. Live | 22. Deity | |