



**April 28, 2024**

**Pastor Drew Hulse**

**Colossians 2:6-15**

**“Paid in Full”**

## **SUMMARY**

This week, we continue our study in the Book of Colossians. The depth of Paul’s writing and lifting of Jesus can be like a firehouse as we try to take it all in. Understanding Paul’s reasons for his writing helps us to fully comprehend the truth of the Scriptures.

Bruce shared with us last week about the physical setting of Colossae. Remember, Paul had never been there. It was Epaphras, Paul’s dear fellow servant, who have brought the Gospel to them a couple of years before. And the Gospel had found good soil and taken root in their lives. The challenge was, also in Colossae, because it was a city made up of many different ethnic groups and religions. There were Greek colonists, native Phrygians, and Jewish settlers. They brought with them many different influences from Hellenistic and Roman religions and philosophies such as Gnosticism, pagan influences of angel-cult beliefs and deities such as Zeus.

It was the influence of all of these that Paul is pointing his writing to. Gnosticism and the worship of elemental principles of the world; wind, rain, fire, air were the “secrets” of the day. The believers of Colossae were being told Jesus was just one of the gods. What they really needed was Jesus and the “secrets of the universe.”

This is why Paul states his argument so clearly:

Col 1:15-16, “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation: 16 for [by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones, or dominions, or rulers, or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.”

Col 1:26-27, “the mystery which had been hidden from the past ages and generations, but now has been revealed to His saints, 27 to whom God willed to make known what the wealth of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles is, the mystery that is Christ in you, the hope of glory.”

Col 2:6-7, “Therefore, as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so [e]walk in Him, 7 having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.”

Col 2:9-10, “9 For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, 10 and in Him you have been made [j]complete, and He is the head over every ruler and authority;”

Paul wants them to know with full assurance that being in Christ, putting their trust in Him, having been rooted, built up, strengthened, and overflowing, they are in need of nothing else. It is not Jesus and ....

It can seem clear to us, until we too fall victim to the thoughts, am I doing enough? It is the subtle trap of a “works” theology where we think we must have to contribute to our salvation. There must be other secrets, self-help, mysteries of the universe that will give me an extra edge. Paul tells the Colossians and he tells, if you are in Christ, “you have been made complete!”

### **QUOTES/THOUGHTS FROM THE SERMON:**

“Just as the great tree is deep-rooted in the soil, and draws its nourishment from it, so the Christian is rooted in Christ, and Christ is the source of his life and his strength. Just as the house stand fast because it is built on strong foundations, so the Christian life is strong against any storm because it is founded, not on any man’s strength, but on the strength of Christ. Christ is alike the source of the Christian’s life, and the foundation of the Christian’s stability.” – William Barclay Commentary on Colossians

This chorus from the musical Aida with the song “Written in the Stars” about “star crossed lovers reflects a very common belief of the Gnostics at the time.

*Is it written in the stars? Are we paying for some crime?*

*Is that all that we are good for? Just a stretch of mortal time?*

*Or some god's experiment, In which we have no say?*

*In which we given paradise, But only for a day.*

### **QUESTIONS**

- When was the first time you were in debt? What effect does debt have on us?
- Do you know someone who follows astrology? Why do you think people are so enticed by it?
- Can you share when you were first “rooted” in Christ?
- Why do you think it is so common for people to think they need to add something to the grace of God concerning their salvation, Jesus and ....?
- What do you find yourself trying to add?
- Read Isa 52:13-53:12 – How does that help you understand what God has done in Christ?

### **CLOSE IN PRAYER**

As you close, remember the chorus of the hymn, Jesus Paid It All

*Jesus paid it all, All to Him I own;*

*Sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow.*

Thank God for His faithfulness and for the gift of life made possible in Jesus.