

## Captured by Christ: [The One Who Makes Us Complete](#)

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### [What's the Big Idea?](#)

God's people should let their hearts be captured by Christ, not by worldly points of view that aren't grounded in him.

### [What's the Problem?](#)

Our hearts are vulnerable to being taken captive by philosophies and points of view that aren't grounded in Christ. We seek completeness in these things instead of letting Christ complete us.

### [What's our Response?](#)

Hold fast to Jesus as the substance of life, the one who makes us complete. Resist the temptation to build our life on a foundation of anyone or anything other than Christ.

### [Memorize](#)

For in him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in him you have been made complete, and he is the head over all rule and authority.

Colossians 2:9-10

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### [What Do I Need to Know About the Passage?](#)

This passage paints another glorious picture of Christ as a way of urging readers not to look elsewhere for completeness. Many people in Paul's day believed that spiritual forces controlled the world, the heavens, and their lives. They believed they needed to appease these forces in order to live happy lives. Paul says that Christ reigns over all and is the only one who can give us the true life we long for. Trust God that you and those in your group would be captured by Christ as you explore this passage.

### [Don't Let Anyone Take You Captive-Colossians 2:8-15](#)

Paul suggests in verse 8 that we can get sucked in by a point of view that's not grounded on Christ. He warns against this and implicitly calls us to let Christ capture our hearts. He alone is worthy of this for all the reasons listed in verses 9-15: he's God in the flesh, he makes us complete, he's the ruler over every other authority, he's given us hearts that are responsive to God through our union with his death and resurrection, and he's made us alive in a relationship with God by forgiving our sins. In his victory over sin and death through the cross, Jesus triumphed over every hostile power and authority in the same way a first-century general would humiliate a defeated enemy by parading him through the streets. No other point of view, person, or thing compares with Christ, so he alone is worthy to capture our hearts.

Make sure not to rifle through all these glorious things about our Savior. Take time with your group to savor them and appreciate what a beautiful Savior we have. Allow him to take your heart captive to himself! Also take time with your group to consider the things that threaten to take you captive, the worldly points of view that aren't founded on Christ.

### [Don't Let Anyone Act as Your Judge-Colossians 2:16-17](#)

Since Christ is so glorious and makes us complete (verses 9-15), we don't need to center our spirituality on human rules about food, drink, and religious observances. To whatever extent these things have value, it's because they point us to Christ in the same way a shadow points to the one who casts it. Paul urges his readers to focus their devotion on substance not shadow. Encourage the members of your group to do the same by focusing their devotion on Jesus himself, not mere external expressions of religion.

## Don't Let Anyone Defraud You of Your Prize-Colossians 2:18-23

Paul says we drift from devotion to Jesus and experiencing the completeness he brings into our lives when we start to think that spirituality is about what we do for God or about anything other than Christ himself. That's why he says we should "hold fast to the head," speaking of Jesus. When we hold fast to Jesus, following rules doesn't dominate our lives. Holding fast to Jesus delivers us from the thought that if we just work hard enough and follow the right rules, we'll be truly spiritual. Paul says this approach lacks true value in experiencing the life God intends for us.

### What Are the Questions?

#### Launch

Think over the past week. What have been some of the things that have captured your heart and affections?

#### Explore

##### Read Colossians 2:8-15

1. What are some of the worldly points of view that capture people's hearts in our culture?
2. What does Paul imply should capture our hearts instead?
3. What things are so great about Christ according to verses 9-15?
4. What do you think Paul means when he says, "in him you have been made complete" (verse 10)?
5. What do you think Paul means when he writes of our sinful nature or "body of flesh" being removed or cut away (verse 11)?
6. What do you think Paul means when he says God made us alive together with him (verse 13)?
7. How does God forgiving our sins through Christ contribute to our being made alive in him (verse 13)?
8. What does verse 15 say about the nature of Christ's defeat of the rulers and authorities that stand opposed to him?
9. How does Christ stack up against any philosophy or worldly point of view that a person could embrace?

##### Read Colossians 2:16-19

10. What are the main commands in these verses?
11. What do these verses encourage us to avoid?
12. What do these verses encourage us to hold onto?

##### Read Colossians 2:20-23

13. What approach to spirituality does Paul question in verses 20-22?
14. What are the problems with this approach to spirituality?

#### Apply

15. Think about your answer to the launch question. Line it up with the list of great things about Christ in verses 9-15. How does the thing or things that have been capturing your affections compare to Christ?
16. How do we go about being captured by Christ?
17. In what ways do you live a rules-based spirituality and drift from Christ himself as the source of your life and spirituality?
18. How have you experienced the truth of what Paul says in verse 23: that rules-based spirituality doesn't provide decisive help in conquering our sinful desires?
19. How does being captured by Christ succeed in empowering us to conquer our sinful desires where following rules fails?
20. In what ways do you need to trust in Christ to make you complete?

### What Are the Answers?

1. Allow the group to discuss.
2. Christ.
3. The fullness of Deity dwells in him in bodily form, he makes us complete, he's the head over all rule and authority, he gives us responsive hearts to God, he makes us alive in a relationship with God, and he forgives our sins. All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are in him.

4. Being complete in Christ means we have everything we truly need in life because of our relationship with him. He doesn't want anyone to delude them with persuasive arguments that suggest wisdom and knowledge ultimately come from any other source than Christ.
5. Paul seems to be saying that Christ has taken away the power of the sinful nature for his followers so that it no longer needs to dominate their lives and enslave them. We experience this reality as we submit ourselves to God and draw on the power of his Spirit to live the Christian life.
6. God through Christ makes it possible for us to be in a relationship with God and have the ability to interact with him today and for eternity.
7. Forgiveness of sins takes away the barrier between us and God owing to his great holiness and our great sinfulness. Now there's no longer hostility from God toward us because he judged our sins in Christ's death on the cross instead of pouring out his judgment on us.
8. Christ's defeat of these rulers and authorities is decisive and overwhelming, the same way a victorious general would parade his defeated foe through the streets of the city to embarrass and humiliate him.
9. Christ crushes the competition. No other point of view, person or thing is the fullness of deity in bodily form, can make us complete, is head over all rule and authority, gives us responsive hearts to God, makes us alive in a relationship with God, or forgives our sins.
10. Don't let anyone act as your judge or condemn you, and don't let anyone defraud you or disqualify you.
11. We should avoid basing our spirituality on following religious rules and self-abasement.
12. We should hold on to Christ as the source of our life and spirituality.
13. Paul questions a rules-based approach to spirituality.
14. They don't empower people to conquer their evil desires.
15. Allow the group to discuss.
16. Allow the group to discuss.
17. Allow the group to discuss.
18. Allow the group to discuss.
19. Allow the group to discuss.
20. Allow the group to discuss.