Colossians 2:1-10

“Fill er Up!”

I. INTRO:
   A. Just because someone is sincere doesn’t mean they aren’t sincerely wrong!
      1. E.g. You might have sincerely believed that what was in that bottle marked Root-beer was really Root-beer before you drank it, but if its contents was poison it really doesn’t matter how sincere you were in believing that.
   B. False teachers were trying to convince the Colossians that they were “incomplete!” - “They lacked a deeper knowledge of God.” [They couldn’t have been more wrong]
      1. All believers possess the secret to true knowledge because we have Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom & knowledge.

II. FILLED FULL IN CHRIST!
   A. BE ENCOURAGED! (1)
   B. Conflict - Struggle. The picture is an athletic contest which is strenuous & demanding.¹
      1. Vs.2-10 explains Paul’s inner struggle for the believers at Colosse & Laodicea.
         a) Note vs.2 starts with that...
   C. BE ENCOURAGED! (2a)
   D. There was a story of a man who one morning opened his door to get the newspaper and was surprised to see a strange little dog with our paper in his mouth. Delighted with this unexpected “delivery service,” I fed him some treats. The following morning I was horrified to see the same dog sitting in front of our door, wagging his tail, surrounded by eight newspapers. I spent the rest of that morning returning the papers to their owners.
      1. A little bit of encouragement goes a long way!
      2. Or, like the little boy who said to his father, “Let’s play darts. I’ll throw and you say, ‘Wonderful!’”
   E. BE KNIT TOGETHER! (2b)
   F. What is causing them to be knit together?...love!
   G. BE KNOWLEDGEABLE! (2c,3)
   H. (3) It is in Christ that all the treasures of divine wisdom & knowledge have been stored up, in hiding formerly, now displayed to those who have come to know Christ. (FF Bruce)

¹ LKGNT; pg. 571
1. **They are hidden for us not from us!**
   a) **Illustration:** Our Dentist growing up was Dr. Rice in La Mirada. I remember walking past the **closet**. See, hidden in the closet was a **basket** full of toys, to which when you were finished, you were able to **pick one toy** from the basket.
   (1) It wasn’t hidden **from** me, it was hidden **for** me! :) 
2. **In Him** there is the union of the **spiritual & the material; the heavenly & the earthly; the divine & the human; the eternal & the historical.** 
3. **What a tragedy** that men will build there houses over a **mine of gold** & never realize it is there, & **continue to live** in poverty & ignorance. 
4. A **poor old woman** was living in poverty & want. A friend, hearing she was I need, went over to **visit** her & if possible **help** her. The old lady complained bitterly of her condition & remarked that her son in Australia was doing very well. Her friend inquired, “And doesn’t he do anything to help you?” She replied, “No nothing. He writes to me regularly once a month but he only send me some **little pictures w/ his letter**.” The friend asked to see the **pictures** she had received & to his surprise found each of them to be 20 pound notes. 
   a) The **poor old lady** did not realize the **value** of this foreign currency, but had only imagined them to be **pretty pictures!** 
   b) Have you just seen the **pretty pictures**, or have you **cashed** them by faith, & **believed & appropriated** them? 

I. Yes, the deeper things are **hidden**, so we must: search, study, pray, commune, trust, yield, obey, prove, pursue, & persist like the **old gold-prospectors** of the Calif gold rush. 
1. **He wants to bless us with the joy of continual new discovery & surprise! :)** 
2. **Poem:** Then let me gratefully **explore**, These boundless riches **evermore**;
   The fullness of the Christ **divine**, That precious Jesus who is **mine**!

J. **BE ON GUARD! (4)** 
K. **Religious systems** seem so inviting, & their leaders so persuasive. But if you follow them, you will substitute **man’s ideas** for **God’s truth!**

L. **BE ORDERLY & STEADFAST! (5)** 
M. **Good order** - Orderly. Used in the **military sense** of a **rank** or orderly array. 
N. **Steadfast** - Firm, hard, solid. Probably continuing the military metaphor & means “a solid front” or “a closed phalanx.”
O. **BE WALKING!** (6)

P. As you therefore have received Christ Jesus -

1. **Receiving** is an act which implies the acceptance of a gift (opposite of merit).
2. As the **earth** drinks in the **rain**, as the **sea** receives the **streams**, as **night** accepts light form the **stars**, so we, giving nothing, partake freely of the grace of God. (Spurgeon)

Q. **Walk** - to walk about, to conduct one’s life. [**pres.tense** calls for a **continual & habitual** action]

R. Because we possess the secret to true knowledge (i.e.) Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom & knowledge, then all we must do is **walk** in Him!

1. **Walking** implies **action**. Our religion is not to be confined to our closet.
2. **Spiritual walking** is the opposite of **spiritual striving**.
3. Instead of the emphasis being on our own strength it is on Christ's!
4. We walk in Him, in His steps, in His power!
5. *We must keep to Him, cling to Him, never let Him go, but live & move & have our being in Him!*

S. **BE ROOTED!** (7)

T. Roots have access to moisture . For a tree to bear fruit it must have its feet in the water.

1. “What’s on the **tree above** the ground - reveals what it secretly feeds upon **underground**.”

U. **BE BUILT UP!** (7b)

V. The thought is that **Christ** is the foundation of a building, on which the **Colossian Christians** were continually being built.

W. **BE ESTABLISHED!** (7c)

X. Established in the **faith** - Faith being the cement of the building. (Lightfoot)

Y. As you have been **taught** - It is **not enough** for the evangelist to win men for Christ; they must instruct them in those principles of **Christian living** which alone can safeguard the soul, & prevent it from backsliding. (Griffith Thomas)

Z. **BEWARE!** (8,9)

AA. **Cheat you** - To carry off as booty or as a captive. Don’t be kidnapped!

1. Here the thief is **man-made philosophy & tradition**, pleasing to the world but rejected by the Lord.
BB. **Fullness** - The word *differs* from the expression *Godhead* in that it emphasizes, not so much divine attributes, but *divine nature* or *essence*.

CC. **Bodily** - In bodily form. Referring to Christ's human body.

1. **Gnosticism believed**...the spirit alone was *good,* matter was essentially *evil*!
2. This belief led its followers to 3 main heresy's:
   [1] **The Doctrine of Creation**: If matter is evil, God could not have created it.
   [2] **The Doctrine of Jesus**: If matter’s evil Jesus couldn’t have a flesh/blood body
   [3] **The Ethical approach to life**: If matter is evil, then our bodies are evil.
   a) If our bodies are evil, then you either practice:
      - **Rigid Asceticism** (self-denial, starve, beat, deny the body){e.g. Francis Assisi} Or,
      - **Loose Morality** (i.e.) if the body was evil, it didn’t matter what you did to/with it, the spirit was all that mattered.
   b) Paul will continue to refute this throughout the book.

DD. **BE FILLED FULL!** (10)

EE. **Title:** “Fill er Up!”

FF. If *in Christ* we find “wisdom, knowledge, all the fullness of God, & we find ourselves complete in Him”...Why accept a substitute?

GG. Spurgeon reminds us, “We must *arise* believer, & *behold* the Lord Jesus *yoking* the whole of His *divine Godhead* to the chariot of *salvation!*

HH. So Christ is to be *received,* & then the Christian is *rooted* in Him, *walking* in Him, & all the while abounding in *thanksgiving.*

1. So for doctrine & duty; character & conduct; life & labour; thought & deed; word & work; **Christ is all, & in all!**