

THE DEITY OF CHRIST

PLEASE do not read these comments until you have prayed for wisdom and read the Bible to learn what the Holy Spirit wants you to teach your students. Then let Him guide you in using these notes below to meet the needs of your students.

Lesson Aim: Teach the students the benefit of having Jesus Christ, the fullness of God, living in them.

Suggestion: Give next week's Student Lesson to your class to answer the questions. Let them share their answers in class. The questions below will reveal important truths you may want to emphasize.

Introduction: The deity of Jesus Christ is vital to Christians because He lives in them and shares His majesty and glory with them. If He were not in the Godhead, Christians would truly be impoverished. But in His body all the fullness of the Godhead dwells permanently so that Christians are complete in Him and marvelously enriched by Him. "For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily: And you are complete in Him, which is the Head of all principalities and power." (Colossians 2:9-10)

Why is it important that believers have a strong faith in Jesus Christ? 2:1-5

Believers need a strong faith in Jesus Christ to overcome the enticing words of atheists in secular universities and of teachers in false religions and cults (1:4). Believers who are weak in their faith are easily taken captive by these false teachers. They need to be taught the truth about Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit, who lives in them (Jn 14:16-17, 26; 15:26). The Spirit teaches them as they read and study the Bible for themselves and as they are instructed by godly believers that have strong faith in Jesus Christ. In Jesus Christ are found all the treasures of true wisdom and knowledge that will strengthen them against teachers that attack them with persuasive words of false doctrine. If believers depart from true wisdom and knowledge found in Christ, they will suffer great loss and harm in their spiritual lives. They will discover that they have exchanged the complete fullness of Jesus Christ for the emptiness of heretical teachers.

How do believers grow strong in their Christian faith? 2:6-7

Believers are commanded to walk in Christ with the same faith that they had to be saved by Christ. They were planted ("rooted") by faith in Christ; now they are to grow ("built up" and "established") by faith in Christ. Proof of their faith in Christ is a heart that abounds with thanksgiving.

How do false religions prey upon believers? 2:8-10

They prey upon believers with deceitful philosophies of men and offer them empty promises. Their doctrines are built on legalism that demands self-sacrifice and good works to save their souls instead of faith in the finished work of Christ on the cross. They either deny that Jesus Christ is fully God or fully man; He cannot be both. But the Scripture says that all fullness dwells in Christ (1:19). What fullness does He have? It says in Him as a man ("bodily") dwells all the fullness of the Godhead (absolute deity). Since believers are in Christ, they are complete in Him ("complete" is from the same root word as "fullness"). Believers share in Christ's fullness, so they can be children of God. Praise the Lord! The doctrine of a teacher that denies the humanity or deity of Jesus Christ must be rejected.

How is the salvation of a believer described in Scripture? 2:11-15

It is described as a circumcision by Christ when He put off the body of sins of the flesh. It is a spiritual circumcision of the heart made without hands. Salvation also is described as a baptism in Christ. Believers are buried with Christ in His death and raised with Him. Another way of depicting salvation is taking the certificate of our debt of sin and nailing it to the cross of Christ, where He paid for all of it.

How have believers been set free by Christ? 2:16-23

Christ has freed believers from the legalism of Judaism (16-17), the mysticism of vain philosophers (18-19) and the asceticism of those that sought holiness through self-denial (20-23). Believers are complete by faith in Christ's fullness (2:9-10).