

The Sufficiency of Christ

“My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments.” (Colossians 2:2-4 NIV)

El Shaddai “The God who is sufficient, the God who is enough” (Genesis 17:2, Psalm 91:1)

- Christ is sufficient in His **work** (Prophet, Priest, King) Colossians 2:11-15
- Christ is sufficient in His **power** (Scripture, The Holy Spirit, the Church) Colossians 2:9-10
- Christ is sufficient in His **love** (Romans 8:31-39)

Artificial additives to the sufficiency of Christ we must avoid

1. Christ plus **philosophy** (Colossians 2:8)

See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ. NIV

Philosophy “Phileo” (Love) + “Sophia” (Wisdom)= *The love of wisdom*

2. Christ plus **legalism** (Colossians 2:16-17)

Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ. NIV

Legalism = Commanding something of people that Scripture does not or condemning something that Scripture does not condemn.

3. Christ plus **mysticism** (Colossians 2:18-19)

Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you for the prize. Such a person goes into great detail about what he has seen, and

his unspiritual mind puffs him up with idle notions. He has lost connection with the Head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow. NIV

Mysticism = The over emphasis on subjective experience rather than objective truth.

4. Christ plus **asceticism** (Colossians 2:20-23)

Since you died with Christ to the basic principles of this world, why, as though you still belonged to it, do you submit to its rules: "Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!"? These are all destined to perish with use, because they are based on human commands and teachings. Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence. NIV

Asceticism = an attempt to accomplish inner peace and righteousness by pride and self-denial.

Conclusion: Christ plus **nothing** He is the all-sufficient Lord & Savior

Colossians 2:6-7

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. NIV