

## God Incarnate in Christ (Col. 2:1-10)

Verses 1-3: Christ is the fountainhead of wisdom.

- Confronting Gnosticism – *Gnosis* refers to knowledge: Gnostics were seeking a mystical knowledge of God through experience. The same error occurs today in experiential Christianity.
- Gnostics taught that Christ was higher than man, but not divine.
- Christ reveals God to man and is thus the source of all knowledge (apprehending the truth) and wisdom (applying knowledge).

**Summary:** Believers are to know Christ as God's incarnate Son, the source of wisdom & knowledge – prompts unity and love in Body.

Verses 4-7: The dangers of deception (*paralogizomai*).

- Danger of persuasive words: defeated by a fortified faith in Christ which holds to the truth and resists deception (Jas. 4:7; 1 Pet. 5:8-9).  
Examples:
  1. Ensnared by religious causes not endorsed by God (1 Kgs. 22:3).
  2. Forging unnatural unions with children of wrath (1 Kgs. 22:4).
  3. Using one truth to undermine another truth (Num. 16:3).
- Believers were to walk (progress) in the truth concerning Christ (1:15-19): rooted in Him at conversion and then being built up in Him results in unshakable faith and overflowing thankfulness.

Verse 8: The dangers of philosophy and legalism (diverting from Christ).

- Beware of “philosophy” (the love of wisdom).  
Examples: The leaven of the Sadducees (Matt. 16:6): Skepticism, intellectualism, high-criticism, etc. Trying to outthink God!
- Beware of “the traditions of men”: “elemental principles” drawn from self-exalting worldlings, not Christ (2 Cor. 10:5; Jas. 1:26).  
Examples: The leaven of the Pharisees (Matt. 16:6): Legalism adds to God's Word to earn God's favor (Col. 2:20-22; 1 Tim. 4:1-3).

Verses 9-10: The believer is complete in Christ.

- God fully dwells in Christ, who is over all authorities and powers.
- In Christ, we have access to all power, knowledge, and wisdom! Why would we want to go to anyone else but Christ for help and understanding? He is the all-wise, all-knowing, all-powerful God!