

Colossians - Chapter 2
“How to Live the Christian Life (In a Nutshell)”
Colossians 2:3-6

Verse 3

1. Where are true spiritual wisdom and knowledge found? Notice Paul said, “*In whom...*” They are found in a person - in Jesus Christ. You will not find the treasures of wisdom and knowledge in a textbook, college campus, or psychiatrist's office.
2. The false teachers promised to give these people some type of “hidden wisdom” that would make them hyperspiritual, but Paul says, “No, all spiritual wisdom is found in Christ.”
3. The wisdom that Paul is referring to is found in Christ and His finished work through the cross. 1 Corinthians 1:23-24, 2:7-8
4. This hidden wisdom was made known to Paul, and Paul preached Christ according to the revelation of the mystery that God had shown to him. This wisdom is now available to all who will come to Jesus Christ and put their faith and trust in Him.
5. When you are in Christ, you lack nothing. You are now **in Christ** - the One in whom all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are found.
6. There is spiritual wisdom (that comes from God), and there is fleshly wisdom (2 Corinthians 1:12). Paul calls fleshly wisdom “*the wisdom of this world.*” Paul said in 1 Corinthians 1:20 that God has “*made foolish the wisdom of this world.*”
7. All true wisdom is found in Christ! Therefore, as you grow in Christ, you grow in true wisdom and knowledge. 2 Peter 3:18

Verse 4

1. Paul constantly battled false teachers who would seek to lead believers away from a total reliance on Jesus Christ. Satan hates sound doctrine because God's Word rightly divided changes lives. Satan's chief goal is to beguile (deceive) people into believing lies. 2 Corinthians 11:13-15
2. When they approach people, Satan’s ministers do not have horns and a pitchfork. They are slick and smooth and, typically, very gifted orators. The phrase “*enticing words*” carries the idea of persuasiveness. Romans 16:17-18
 - Have you ever heard the expression “wolves in sheep's clothing?” Acts 20:29
 - Just because a person holds up a Bible, writes a “Christian” book, or stands behind a pulpit, it does not mean that he is speaking God's truth.
3. This is why it is so crucial that all believers grow in God's Word, and in their understanding of sound doctrine. If not, they will be tossed to and fro. Ephesians 4:14

Verse 5

1. Even though Paul was not physically at the Colossian church, he could see into the hearts of these people through Epaphras (1:7, 4:12). Epaphras had shared with Paul all about these believers. 1:8
2. Through the eyes and heart of Epaphras, Paul could see the order of the Colossian church. Epaphras was obviously a good leader because they were doing all things decently and in order. 1 Corinthians 14:40
3. Epaphras had also told Paul of the Colossian's faith in Christ. They had truly trusted Christ and had a strong, steadfast faith in Him. This is why it grieved Paul so much that false teachers were trying to lead them away from the sufficiency of Christ. Paul did not want to see them moved away from the hope of the gospel (Christ). 1:23

Verse 6

1. Isn't this a wonderful verse? It is so reassuring, and reminds us of the simplicity of the Christian life.
2. The basis on which we **started** the Christian life is the same basis on which we **live** the Christian life - faith in Christ!
3. *"As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord..."* How did you receive Christ? Did you have to work for Him? Did you have to perform to a certain standard in order to receive Christ? No! You received Him by faith, period!
 - You had to come to the place where you said, "I give up. I can't save myself. I can't earn God's favor. I am trusting Christ and what He has already accomplished for me."
4. Paul says, *"...so walk ye in him."* You received Him by faith; now you walk by faith in Him. We live our Christian lives totally relying on Christ and His power within.
 - We have the same attitude we did at salvation, "I cannot live the Christian life in my power and strength. I give up. Jesus, I need you to live the Christ-life through me!"
5. Isn't it amazing how many people trust Christ by faith but then think they have to **do** something or perform religiously in order to **stay** accepted by God?
6. The Galatian churches did this. They allowed false teachers to enter in and convince them that they had to keep the law in order to really live an acceptable Christian life. Paul told them, *"Are ye so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?"* Galatians 3:3
7. You started by faith alone in Christ; you continue by faith alone in Jesus Christ. This is how you make true spiritual progress in your life. Satan wants to corrupt people from the simplicity that is in Christ. 2 Corinthians 11:3
8. The Christ-life is a methodical, day-in, day-out walk with a person (Jesus Christ), at home, in the office, in the neighborhood, in the schoolroom, etc.
9. The Christ-life is all about a daily relationship with Christ. It is not about a creed, or repeating religious phrases, or traditions, or religious rituals, or a list of "dos" and "don'ts." You received Christ by faith; you walk with Christ daily by faith.