

<b>Pastor Emeritus Jerry Marshall</b>	<b>The Eternal Treasure of Being Complete in Christ</b>
<p><b>Colossians 2:8–23 (NASB)</b></p> <p><b>8</b> See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ. <b>9</b> For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, <b>10</b> and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority; <b>11</b> and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ; <b>12</b> having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. <b>13</b> When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, <b>14</b> having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.</p> <p><b>15</b> When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.</p> <p><b>16</b> Therefore no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day— <b>17</b> things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ. <b>18</b> Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on visions he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind, <b>19</b> and not holding fast to the head, from whom the entire body, being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments, grows with a growth which is from God. <b>20</b> If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees, such as, <b>21</b> "Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!" <b>22</b> (which all refer to things destined to perish with use)—in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men? <b>23</b> These are matters which have, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self-abasement and severe treatment of the body, but are of no value against fleshly.</p>	<p>The focus of our study today will be on the theme of this epistle, which is that all genuine believers in Jesus Christ are complete in Christ. And the church is to be on guard against those false teachings that attempt to persuade us, that there is something more we must do appease God for our sins, win His love, and to be declared right standing with Him.</p> <p><b>I. Deceptive _____ (Colossians 2:18-15)</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><b>A. Complete _____ (vs.9-12)</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><b>B. Complete _____ (vs 13-15)</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><b>C. Complete _____ (v.15)</b></p> <p><b>II. Enslaving _____ Colossians 2:16-17</b></p> <p><b>III. Distorted _____ Colossians 2:18-18</b></p> <p><b>IV. Useless _____ Colossians 2:20-23</b></p>