

Theme: Christians have been given a full salvation - our sins forgiven, our enemies vanquished, and our sinful nature effectively dealt with - through Jesus, Who is the fulness of God.

I. Intro – Hannibal at Lake Trasimene

- A. Overconfident Roman General and army
- B. Lured into a narrow shoreline by mountain Lake
- C. Considered greatest military ambush ever
- D. Hannibal's troops swept from mountains
- E. Decisively crushed the enemy
- F. Today Paul talks about another crushing victory
- G. This victory is great news for us!

II. Review and Overview - The Battle Plan

- A. A quick review of last week - the danger
 - 1. Christians in danger of being taken captive (v8)
 - 2. The basic problem - something other than Jesus
- B. The solution - look to Jesus (link; 2 parts)
 - 1. 'for' - this is why all depends on Christ (v9)
 - 2. Christ is the fullness of God (v9)
 - 3. We have been given all we need in Jesus (v10)

III. Christ - the Fullness of God

- A. All the fullness of God lives in Jesus
 - 1. All the fullness - tautology - ALL (v9)

- 2. All God's fullness in Jesus (Colossians 1:19)
- 3. Slap at Gnostics - ALL in Jesus - no intermediaries

B. The Incarnation - God became Man

- 1. θεϊότης - Being (not just attributes) of God
- 2. Strong statement of the Deity of Christ
- 3. σωματικῶς - bodily - God took on flesh
- 4. Incarnation - real Deity and humanity of Christ
- 5. Another slap at the Gnostics in Colossae

C. Christ is the fulness of God - He is all!!!

IV. Our Fulness In Christ

A. We have been given fulness in Christ (v10)

- 1. Perfect tense - already have fulness
- 2. Passive - this was God's work and gift to us
- 3. In Christ - not spirits, secret knowledge, or legalism
- 4. Completely against Gnostic thought, practices

B. The full extent of our fullness in Christ (redundant!)

- 1. In Christ we have been given spiritual life
 - a. We were dead - made alive with Christ (v13)
 - b. Free forgiveness (χαρίζομαι) of all our sins (v13)
 - c. Our IOU of debts taken away - perfect tense! (v14)
 - d. Our sins have been dealt with full and finally!

2. Our enemies were vanquished by Christ
 - a. Jesus is Head/authority over every spiritual power (v10)
 - b. Jesus has disarmed the powers - beat them in battle (v15)
 - c. Jesus has led the spirits in triumphal procession (v15)
 - d. Satan and his hosts have been dealt with for us!
 - e. We do not have to appease them any longer!
3. Our sin nature has been dealt with by Christ (vv11-12)
 - a. We were circumcised by Christ - now His people
 - b. We Gentiles have received the covenant sign
 - c. But this circumcised sin nature - Satan's ally in us
 - d. This gives us power in struggle against sin!
 - e. This comes in Christ - not legalism, asceticism
4. This is a full salvation my friends!

V. Applying the Word

- A. Do we embrace the full Deity of Christ?
 1. The Gnostics made Him less than He was
 2. Many today reduce Christ - great teacher, prophet
 3. He is the fulness of God in flesh - the God-Man
 4. These other opinions are false & disrespectful
 5. Embrace Christ for Who He is - God!
- B. Do we recognize the full salvation given in Christ?
 1. Do we see that He offer full and free forgiveness?

2. Do we see this covers all our sins?
3. Do we see He has vanquished our foes?
4. We need not live in fear of Satan and death!
5. Do we see He freely helps us overcome sin?
6. And all of this is His free gift!
7. Receive and apply the gift today!

C. Lord's Supper - Reveling In Our Great Salvation!

Fullness In Christ

Colossians 2:8-15

May 6, 2012

Communion

Psalm 20:1-5

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. 9 For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, 10 and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority.

11 In him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ, 12 having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.

13 When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, 14 having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. 15 And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

Colossians 2:8–15