

Why Jesus is Enough to Meet Your Needs
Col. 2:6-23

Good morning! We're starting a new series for the month of June called "Enough". In this series, we're going to look at three important truths we need to know in this life. Truths that are taught in the Bible. These are "Why Jesus is enough to meet your needs", "Why the Bible is enough to answer your questions" and "Why God's grace is enough to save your soul". In this series, we're going to look at the reasons why these are fundamental truths we need to know and understand. I believe if we get these three right, then we'll be all right. Of course, there are other truths but these three are enough (no pun intended). All other truths can be subsumed in any of these foundational truths.

You see, we're all living in a fast-changing world where many of our long-held and traditional beliefs and convictions are being undercut by the constant onslaught of secular, liberal, and humanistic philosophies and notions that pop up like popcorn. Many people are confused today and don't know what to believe in. Someone said, "If you don't stand for something, you'll fall for anything". And when that happens, it will be a fatal fall indeed. So, if you want to live with purpose, if you want to live with conviction, if you want to live with integrity, if you want to live with stability, track with me and Bro. Brandon as we explore these three truths in the next few weeks.

The title of this message is "Why Jesus is Enough to Meet Your Needs". You'll be glad to know I have only one point in this message. Because we're aiming to finish our service in one hour. Actually, this is one big point that I'd like each of us to remember and make it our life's compass point. It is a point that will give us direction and hope when we seem to be lost as we navigate the tricky and

unpredictable and sometimes hazardous roads of life. Our text comes from **Col. 2:6-23**. This is quite a long passage. Please turn to that passage in your Bibles. Now, we're not going to read it through. I just want us to read the first few verses. (Read 6-10)

I stopped in verse 10 because this is the verse I'd like us to focus on. This is our key verse. Specifically, the first part is what I'd like to zoom in. This is the very reason why Jesus is enough to meet our needs.

Again, Verse 10 says, **"...and in Christ you have been brought to fullness."** What does it mean? What does it mean to be brought to fullness? It's a loaded phrase. You see, normally the NIV would be simple and quite direct but not so in this sentence.

And so, I looked at other versions and this is what I found. In the KJV, it says, **"And ye are complete in him."** Quite interestingly, the KJV explains the NIV. Which just proves to show that it's all right to use other versions of the Bible especially as they give light to certain passages in the Bible. Other versions say, **"So you also are complete through your union with Christ". (NLT)** **"And in Him you have been made complete". (NASB)** But this is what I like best, **"When you have Christ, you are complete."** (NLV) Tell that to the person next to you. If there's someone else there with you.

So, the reason why Jesus is enough to meet your needs is this: **In Jesus, I am complete.** It's not, I am full. After lunch later, you'll be full. In other words, When you have Jesus, you lack nothing. There's nothing else or no one else you need. Jesus is enough in your life. You need not worry about anything. Just like David who said, **"The Lord is my Shepherd I lack nothing."** (Psalm 23:1)

But, you say, "Pastor, you don't understand what I'm going through. If Jesus is enough, how come I'm having financial troubles? I can't get a job.

Or I'm a Christian but I am sick. I've been battling this disease for a while. Or I know Jesus but my marriage is in trouble. My children are astray. I thought Jesus would make my life complete". Or if you're single, "Why don't I feel complete?"

And that's where the problem lies. Sometimes, we think that just because we have Jesus, we're already spared the troubles of this world. We regard Jesus as just a means to an end. Paul is not talking about such thing in this passage. He's talking something deeper than that. He's talking about the peace and the grace and the joy that we can have even in the midst of difficulties. When we don't have Jesus, we're not complete. But more than all these feelings of goodness, Paul is actually talking about our spiritual standing before God.

The other day, I came across a very interesting article. It talks about a guy in Kenya whose name is Seth Mahiga. Seth is the former secretary of the "Atheists in Kenya Society" who resigned from his position because he found Jesus Christ. In a Twitter post on May 29, the atheist group said, and I quote:

"This evening, regretfully, our Secretary Mr. Seth Mahiga made the decision to resign from his position as Secretary of our society. Seth's reason for resigning is that he has found Jesus Christ and is no longer interested in promoting atheism in Kenya." (end of quote)

How cool is that? The next day, Mahiga then attended online a church called Fil-Am Community Church, just kidding, ok, actually he went to a church called Life Church International Nairobi and declared to the congregation his resignation from the atheists society and his decision to follow Jesus. And he added, "I've been going through some difficulties in life and then I decided to resign as the secretary. So I'm very happy to be here."

Folks, sometimes we don't feel the lack in our lives until a tragedy hits us. Then, we realize that we need someone like Jesus who can fill the hole in our hearts.

You see, as we know from the Bible, without Christ we are lost. We are dead in our sins. The Bible says in **Romans 3:10**, "There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one." In short, we are all condemned to die and be separated from God forever. Something far more significant than is missing in our lives. What is missing? The forgiveness of God for our sins.

But look at verse 13. It says, "When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins". I'd like to emphasize that. He forgave us all our sins. I did a word study of the word "All" in Greek and, you know what it means? All.

Now, if we back up a little, we see that in verse 11, Paul makes a reference to circumcision. He says, "In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands." Paul here is referring to the Jewish law that says every Jewish male boy was to be circumcised on the eighth day as commanded by God. It was a covenant that was originally made by God with Abraham and his descendants to signify that they belong to God. It applies only to Jews. But Gentiles who wanted to convert to Judaism needed to be circumcised as well. So, Paul here is saying that physical circumcision is not a requirement for any believer in Christ. What is now circumcised is the heart, not the flesh. Paul says in Romans 2:29, "But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter." The heart is circumcised in the sense that all sins that reside in the heart are removed by Jesus.

In short, he forgives our sins, sins that render us dead spiritually, and when we're forgiven, it automatically results in us becoming alive spiritually. We're no longer condemned to die. He did it by dying on the cross for us.

“...having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross.” (v. 14).

So, if you believe what Jesus Christ has done for you and you received him in your heart as your Lord and Savior, you are complete. You are alive. You are on your way to heaven. And on earth, Jesus promised to give you his peace and grace. He says in John 16:33, “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” Then also, his grace will help you go through any difficulty you're having whatever it may be.

The apostle Paul himself was a recipient of God's grace. He talked about a thorn in his flesh which he asked God to take away from him. But God did not answer his prayer. Apparently, God did that to keep him humble. So, Jesus tells him in 2 Cor. 12:9. This time let's open our Bibles to that verse. It says “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Afterwards, he became content with that knowing that Christ was sufficient for him. In fact, he felt stronger than ever because it was God working in him and through him. He continues, let's look again in verse 9, “Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

And we know God used him powerfully and mightily in many ways to preach the gospel and witness to others about the salvation that God offers to everyone through Jesus.

Is there anything troubling you at this time? Know, first of all, that you are complete if you have Jesus. You see, your troubles are temporary. But your future in heaven is permanent. As a Christian, that's your advantage over all others. People who don't know Jesus have troubles, too, but their greatest trouble is that they don't have hope. They'll be separated from God forever.

You see, God cares for you because you are his child. He will never leave you nor forsake you. Just believe that he'll come through for you. And you can always expect his love, peace, comfort, and grace to envelop you in your lowliest moments. Jesus is enough for you.

In Philippians, Paul tells us the secret of his contentment: "I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength." (Phil. 4:11-13) Let us take our cue from Paul. He experienced great hardships throughout his Christian life. And yet he was content. Because he knew Jesus was enough for him.

So, the Bible gives you that same assurance – Jesus is enough for you.

However, there will be times when we may not feel that way. There will be times when we may not think that way. The question now is:

What will hinder me in believing that Christ is not enough?

We'll find the answer in the warnings that Paul gave to the Colossians. But notice first that it seems the Colossian Christians were a people who were strong in their faith. If we back up to verse 5, Paul says that he delighted "to see how disciplined you are and how firm your faith in Christ is." He commended them and, in fact, he encouraged them in verses 6 and 7 to "continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness."

He gave them that encouragement because he knew how some sinister forces were at work in the church. So, in the next verse, he warns them,

"See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ." (v. 8)

He heard reports of false teachers making their way in the church. These false teachers were saying that Christ was not sufficient for their spiritual well-being. They need to be also steeped in the philosophy of the world, human traditions, and even mysticism. So, the answer to the question is: **False Teachings.**

Now, let me give you a brief overview of the heretical teaching that was infiltrating the Colossian church.

This heretical teaching was both religious and philosophical in nature. On one hand, the religious element was championed by the Jews. This teaching asserted that circumcision, keeping special diets and observing the Sabbath and religious festivals were necessary for salvation. On the other hand, the philosophical element of this heretical teaching was championed by the Greeks, notably, the Gnostics. The Gnostics taught that all matter is evil. Therefore, everything you see and touch is evil. And since our bodies are made of matter; they too are evil. So in order to keep the body under control you must have rules about everything. Since all matter is evil – God could not have directly created the earth.

God created angels and gave them the responsibility of creating the earth. This led to the worship of angels as intermediaries between God and Man. And this relegated Jesus to just being another angel. In fact, they didn't believe that God became man in the person of Jesus. They said that Christ was just a spiritual force that settled on a man and then Christ left the body of that man when he was about to be crucified. Since all matter is evil the only thing that counts is the invisible or everything you can't see or touch.

This led to the belief that one could supposedly achieve perfection by progressing through a number of initiations and levels of wisdom in spiritual mysteries. Weird, right?

But such weird or heretical teachings that infiltrated the church are not just a thing of the past. The Bible says, in fact, **“The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.” (1 Timothy 4:1)**

Today, the church is fighting heretical teaching on the same two fronts. On the religious front, people are teaching and saying that all religions are the same. All religions lead to God. It is all right to follow rules and rituals to go to heaven. On the philosophical front, however, we see a different world view. The philosophical attack infiltrating the church today is almost the complete opposite to the philosophical attack that faced the church in NT times. Back then it was taught that everything you see and touch was evil. And the only thing that really mattered was what you can't see and touch.

Today it is the complete opposite. Today it is taught that everything you can't see and touch is evil. And the only thing that really matters is what you can see and touch. We have a name for this – secular humanism, the belief that humanity is capable of morality and self-fulfillment without belief in God.

Secular humanism is fast controlling our government, our public schools, our universities, the media. It even controls some churches. That's why many of our Judeo-Christian values are being upended.

It is so easy to fall in this trap of heretical teaching. When that happens, biblical principles are set aside or compromised. The result is the prevalence of ungodly situations like abortions, teenage pregnancies, live-in relationships, same-sex marriages, divorces, alcoholism, gambling, addictions, and a host of other unfortunate circumstances.

There's another answer to the question **"What will hinder me in believing that Christ is not enough?"**

Paul gives us the answer in verses 16 through 23. He gives a long description. If you have the Bible in front of you, take a quick glance or you can read through it afterwards. But essentially, he is saying, "Don't be deceived. Jesus is enough. He is the real one. The rest are just shadows or simply fake. Don't follow man-made rules."

Man-made rules. They will make me think or feel that Jesus is not enough.

You see, during the time of the apostle Paul, the Judaizers were so strict about rules and regulations. Who were the Judaizers, btw? They were a faction of the Jewish Christians, both of Jewish and non-Jewish origins, who regarded the Levitical laws of the Old Testament as still binding on all Christians. For example, they tried to enforce Jewish circumcision upon the Gentile converts. They said that Christians must still observe the Sabbath and all other Jewish holy days. In short, they were teaching that, in order to please God, you must do this and that. Paul strenuously opposed and criticized them and he was referring to them in verse 16.

Paul was telling the Colossians that these people have lost sight of Jesus. Jesus is enough to make one complete but the Judaizers were adding things to Jesus and thereby deceiving people and preventing them from growing in their faith.

That's true even today. Many religions are adding to what Jesus has already done for us. There's a pseudo-Christian denomination which teaches that you are not saved if you're not baptized. And they don't allow music in their services arguing that the early church didn't have music. In short, they are legalistic. You'll be surprised to know that the church that Max Lucado pastors belongs to this denomination. You'll be glad to know, however, that Lucado is steering this church toward the evangelical mainstream. And he is being criticized by his denomination for that.

So, folks, when we're not careful, we can fall into the trap that Paul warned the Colossians about. When we think that Christ is not sufficient, meaning, we ignore his commands and principles, or we add to his commands and principles, then we experience the same thing as many non-Christians experience. We become unglued. We fall apart. Our worlds collapse. We go into areas we shouldn't go. Our relationships break. We fall into debt. We hurt people. We say things we don't mean. We become sick. And that's a terrible thing.

My friend, let me encourage you that only Jesus can complete you. In Jesus, you are complete.

Now, I understand that you may be in a difficult situation at the moment. And you don't know how to get out of it, just hold on to Jesus because he will hold you together. That is what Paul says to assure the Colossians. Let's back up again and this time to chapter 1 v 15-17 where he says, "The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created:

things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.” He’s saying, “Jesus is God and he is in control of everything in this world, and in fact, of the whole universe.” So, listen to this, if he can do that for the world, he can do that for you. Why would he not do it for you when he died for you? He came to earth to die for you and to save you. Would he then forget you after saving you? No way! He is faithful to keep you and hold you because you are so precious to him.

Today, you may be feeling like something is missing in your life. If you’re missing something, it’s because you’re missing someone in your life. Maybe you’ve never received Jesus in your life. If you’ve never done that, I invite you to do it today. The Bible says today is the day of salvation. All you need to is to accept Jesus in your heart as your personal Lord and Savior. The Bible says “Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.” Why don’t you do that today?

