

## **LESSON 9: COLOSSIANS 2:1-23**

### **Paul's Interest in the Colossians**

1. Paul speaks of “how great a struggle” he has for the saints in Colossae and Laodicea (2:1), yet he has never seen them. How has he been exerting himself for them? Can you exert yourself for someone else in the same way?
2. What does Paul hope will be accomplished through his toil (2:2-3)? What do you hope will be accomplished through your toil? Why is it important to you that “all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” are hidden in Christ (v. 2:3)?
3. What does Paul mean by “plausible arguments” (v. 4)? What are some “plausible arguments” you may have heard lately?
4. What does it mean to you to be “rooted and built up in him,” “established in the faith,” and “abounding in thanksgiving” (v. 2:7)? Notice the sequence of the verbs rooted and built up, established, abounding!
5. What problems in Colossae does Paul address in verse 8? What are the sources of these problems? How persistent are these enemies today? What prepositional phrases are repeated in verses 9-12? What picture is drawn for you by these phrases? How does this picture help you deal with problems like those found in verse 8?
6. What does “fullness in Christ” include (vv. 11-13)? What has the death and resurrection of Christ accomplished in your life? (Notice the repetition of the pronoun and verb “you were.”)
7. Why don't Christians have to follow Jewish ceremonial laws and practices (v. 18)? Contrast these “shadows” to the reality of Christ. Are there any “shadows” on the Christian horizon today? What actions does Paul condemn in this verse? What is the cause, and what the cure (v. 19)?
8. How are the Colossians living (v. 20)? Why is the submission to rules the inferior path (vv. 21-23)? How do you get onto, and then stay on, the high road?