“He is Sufficient for All My Needs”

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The LORD gave us four Gospels. When you read through them, you find something quite intriguing. You find that everybody needs the LORD. But you’ve probably noticed also that oftentimes people will take what they need from Christ and then go on to live a Christ-less life; living apart from the LORD, thinking that *that* need is now met and that was enough. I would have thought that whenever someone came into contact with Jesus that they would be completely changed forever and that they’d never revert back to their old ways. But, sadly, that’s simply not the case. By the way, even the Apostles went back to fishing after the Crucifixion.

Here’s what I’ve concluded. We often only get enough of Christ for what we want Him for or for think we need Him for. For example if someone wanted Jesus to heal them and He heals them, they can easily go on their way; and, in some cases, completely forget Christ; forget to thank Him for what He has done. Do you remember the ten lepers who were perfectly healed of their leprosy as they walked towards the Temple? How many returned to thank Him?

And I think I know why. Here it is. Most of us, maybe even all of us, fail to see the LORD Jesus Christ as He truly is. And what is He truly like? He’s absolutely sufficient for every single thing in your life. And, in the love, mercy, and patience of God, He wants you to learn this by experience.

I want to begin today by turning your attention to the “sufficiency” verses in the Bible. Please find with me the Book of II Corinthians at chapter three. Here’s what we in verse five. II Corinthians 3:5 *“Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think anything as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God;…”* Now go with me to II Corinthians chapter nine. II Corinthians 9:8 *“And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:…”*

And one more, II Corinthians 12:9 *“And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”*

I’ve titled today’s sermon “He is Sufficient for All My Needs.” Shall we pray?

Please go with me now to the Book of Colossians at chapter one. Colossians, as you know, is one of the four “Prison Epistles,” four NT Books, four letters written by the Apostle Paul when he was in prison in Rome. They are Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon.

Colossae, in its day, was a very prominent city. If, for example, you wanted to travel from the city of Laodicea east to the Euphrates River, you usually took the main road, built right alongside the Lycus River, and which flowed right through Colossae.

And it just so happened that Colossae was destroyed by an earthquake just about the same time Paul wrote this epistle to them. That was in 61 or 62 AD.

Now, does anyone here know which NT Epistle was named “Purple Wool”? Here it is. “Collossinus” was a type of wool that had been dyed purple found in shellfish (the buccinum and the purpura). Collossinus was made and sold in Colossae. So, one of the main trade items in this city was the beautiful purple-dyed wool that could be made into various items of clothing. So, some might call the Book of Colossians “The Purple Wool Epistle.”

And, by the way, there are a number of people in Scripture who came from Colosse. There’s Epaphras, Philemon, Onesimus, Archippus, and Apphia.

Colossae, folks, existed in what we know today as the country of Turkey. As with much of the NT cities, Colossae had a Turkish Christian Church.

Now, look with me at Colossians chapter one. Colossians 1:3 *“We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, (4) Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints …”*

Did you notice in verse four that it sounds as if Paul had only *heard* about the Church in that city? Someone else, possibly a man named Epaphras, had been used of the LORD to bring the Gospel to Colossae and now the Holy Spirit had Paul write a NT Epistle to them from a prison in the city of Rome.

Now maybe the most important idea found in the Book of Colossians is this: “Christ Is All Sufficient.” My hope today is to say something personal and practical about Christ and His sufficiency for your life.

And to show you just how sufficient He really is, I’d like turn your attention to Colossians 2:9. Colossians 2:9 says this *“For in Him [Christ] dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. (10) And ye are complete in Him…”*

Now, wouldn’t you wonder this? “LORD, how can I know more of your fulness?” Then you’d realize this; that even if you had a little glimpse of His fulness, you’d have a lot. You see, all the fulness of the Godhead dwells in Jesus.

Look with me at Paul’s emphasis. You can find it in the fact that he placed everything backwards; or, it’s backwards according to our perception of normal word order. Normal sentence construction would put this verse like this. “For all the fulness of the Godhead dwells in Him bodily.” That sounds so much better, doesn’t it? At least that’s more accurate grammatically; except for one thing. The Holy Spirit had Paul write it out of normal word order for emphasis.

Colossians 2:9 *“For in Him [Christ] dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. (10) And ye are complete in Him…”*

Whenever you find something is out of normal word order, you can be quite sure that the writer is emphasizing something specific. Look for his emphasis and you’ll see some of what Paul sees in Christ. *“For in* ***Him*** *dwells all the fullness of the Godhead.”* All that we can possibly know of God can’t and won’t be found anywhere else; not in us, not in religion, not in philosophy; certainly not in the words or ideas of man. It’s found in one place. It’s found in one Person. It’s found in Jesus Christ.

Everything that Jesus Christ was and is is everything that God is. That’s because He is God. That’s because He and His Father are one. That’s because when Jesus came to this earth, He came to reveal His Father to us.

There are so many books written on the subject of God you would be astounded. Every religion has its own book about God. Then you’ve got the writers who explain what that book means when it refers to God.

But here’s what the LORD says.

Here’s what He said. John 14:9 *“…he that hath seen Me hath seen the Father…”* John 10:30 *“I and My Father are one.”* Colossians 2:9 *“For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.”*

All that can be known of God is seen and found in a man; not just any man though. It is all found in the Man Christ Jesus. With all the searchings after and the great human thoughts about God, it’s no wonder there is so much confusion on Who He is. We’ve departed from the Source.

Don’t you ever wonder why you know so little about God? Or are you one of those who think they know so much about Him that they don’t even know that they don’t know it?

He gave us a Book. And in His Book, He showed us His Son. Both Old Testament and New Testament reveal a Savior. And the sooner you look at Jesus like Paul looked at Jesus; with the eyes of your heart; the sooner you’ll see God in this man.

Look again at this ninth verse. *“For in Him dwelleth all the fulness of God bodily.”*

First, all that can be known of God is found in Jesus.

Second, in Christ dwells (lives) all the fulness of the Godhead. We all know that God can’t be located in one location. After all, God is omnipresent. He’s everywhere at the very same moment. Yet, all that God is dwells in His Son.

The best I can possibly do for you when I give you the Gospel is to get you to turn your heart to Jesus Christ; to turn your mind to Jesus Christ; to turn your attention to Him; to get you to consider Him. You see, the sooner you consider Jesus Christ, the sooner you’ll find what you are really looking for in life – the way to get out of yourself and the way to get rid of your sin. Look at Christ because all the fulness of the Godhead dwells in Him.

Charles Spurgeon’s salvation testimony is this.

I sometimes think I might have been in darkness and despair until now, had it not been for the goodness of God in sending a snowstorm one Sunday morning, while I was going to a certain place of worship. I turned down a side street, and came to a little Primitive Methodist Church.

In that chapel there may have been a dozen or fifteen people. I had heard of the Primitive Methodists, how they sang so loudly that they made people’s heads ache; but that did not matter to me. I wanted to know how I might be saved...

The minister did not come that morning; he was snowed up, I suppose. At last a very thin-looking man, a shoemaker, or tailor, or something of that sort, went up into the pulpit to preach. Now it is well that preachers be instructed, but this man was really stupid. He was obliged to stick to his text, for the simple reason that he had little else to say. The text was—"LOOK UNTO ME, AND BE YE SAVED, ALL THE ENDS OF THE EARTH" (Isa. 45:22)

He did not even pronounce the words rightly, but that did not matter. There was, I thought, a glimmer of hope for me in that text.

The preacher began thus: "This is a very simple text indeed. It says ‘Look.’ Now lookin’ don’t take a deal of pain. It aint liftin’ your foot or your finger; it is just ‘Look.’ Well, a man needn’t go to College to learn to look. You may be the biggest fool, and yet you can look. A man needn’t be worth a thousand a year to look. Anyone can look; even a child can look.

"But then the text says, ‘Look unto Me.’ Ay!" he said in broad Essex, "many on ye are lookin’ to yourselves, but it’s no use lookin’ there. You’ll never find any comfort in yourselves. Some say look to God the Father. No, look to Him by-and-by. Jesus Christ says, ‘Look unto Me.’ Some on ye say ‘We must wait for the Spirit’s workin.’ You have no business with that just now. Look to Christ. The text says, ‘Look unto Me.’ "

Then the good man followed up his text in this way: "Look unto Me; I am sweatin’ great drops of blood. Look unto Me; I am hangin’ on the cross. Look unto Me, I am dead and buried. Look unto Me; I rise again. Look unto Me; I ascend to Heaven. Look unto Me; I am sitting at the Father’s right hand. O poor sinner, look unto Me! Look unto Me!"

When he had . . . . managed to spin out about ten minutes or so, he was at the end of his tether. Then he looked at me under the gallery, and I daresay with so few present, he knew me to be a stranger. Just fixing his eyes on me, as if he knew all my heart, he said, "Young man, you look very miserable."

Well, I did, but I had not been accustomed to have remarks made from the pulpit on my personal appearance before. However, it was a good blow, struck right home. He continued, "And you will always be miserable—miserable in life and miserable in death—if you don’t obey my text; but if you obey now, this moment, you will be saved."

Then lifting up his hands, he shouted, as only a Primitive Methodist could do, "Young man, look to Jesus Christ. Look! Look! Look! You have nothing to do but look and live!" I saw at once the way of salvation. I know not what else he said—I did not take much notice of it—I was so possessed with that one thought . . . .

I had been waiting to do fifty things, but when I heard that word, "Look!" what a charming word it seemed to me. Oh! I looked until I could almost have looked my eyes away.

There and then the cloud was gone, the darkness had rolled away, and that moment I saw the sun; and I could have risen that instant, and sung with the most enthusiastic of them, of the precious blood of Christ, and the simple faith which looks alone to Him. Oh, that somebody had told me this before, "Trust Christ, and you shall be saved."

You see, just turn your heart and mind to Christ because to truly look at Christ is to see God. And in looking to Him you can and will be saved – and not until. And this word “Godhead;” don’t be stumped by it. It simply means “Deity.”

It’s an Old English term that is used when you make reference to the Person of God. It has nothing to do with God having a head. It’s simply a reference to the One we refer to as the true and living God, the Creator and Sustainer of the universe.

First, all that can be known of God can found in Jesus.

Second, in Christ dwells (lives) all the fulness of the Godhead.

Third, all the fulness of the Godhead dwells in Him *bodily*. That means that God, the Son took on a physical body. And why? So that He could show His Father to u and so the He could die as a man for our sins. Jesus was here one day, some 2,000 years ago. And while He lived here on the earth His words and His works and His dealings with people all showed one Person – His Father.

Do you see what the Holy Spirit is getting at here through Paul’s words? God’s purposes for sending Jesus into this world included a lot of things. But over the top of everything, He wanted us to come to know Him. And what better way to do it than to use a man; someone just like you!

So, first, all that can be known of God is found in Jesus Christ.

Second, in Christ dwells (lives) all the fulness of the Godhead.

Third, all of God’s fulness dwells in Jesus bodily.

Fourth, look with me at Colossians 2:10. *“And ye are complete in Him, which is the head of all principality and power.”*

“Complete” means one thing; full.

My favorite writer, George MacDonald, had an interesting conversation with his son Greville. One afternoon, Greville was commenting on life in Christ. He said, “Father, It all seems too good to be true.” George MacDonald responded with these words. “No; it’s just so good; it’s got to be true.”

Now, folks, it’s one thing to believe that all of God resides in the man Christ Jesus. But who here believes that you are complete in Him? This word “complete” is a simple word. It means “full.”

Do you remember what Matthew said about the fragments of bread in the baskets after Jesus fed the five thousand? Matthew 14:20 *“And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the fragments that remained twelve baskets full.”*

And after He had fed the four thousand we read this in Matthew 15:37 *“And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the broken meat that was left seven baskets full.”*

And later Jesus brought this up to the Disciples when He asked Mark 8:19 *“When I brake the five loaves among five thousand, how many baskets full of fragments took ye up? They say unto him, Twelve.”*

Look again with me at verse ten. Colossians 2:10 *“And ye are complete in Him,..”* The word “complete” is just another word for “full.”

So, what is the Holy Spirit’s word through the Apostle Paul here?

One wise man said it like this. “Your business is to acquaint yourself with the man Jesus:  He will be to you the One to reveal the Father.  Take your New Testament as if you had never seen it before, and read to find out.  The point is, there was a man who said he knew God and that if you would give heed to him, you should know him too.” (G. MacDonald).

All you need is Christ. So all your efforts to fill your life with anything from success to satisfaction will one day be replaced with a Person. God is right now working on *your* life and in your heart and mind to bring you to the place where you see that you are complete in His Son. That means you don’t need anything as long as you have Him.

As I thought this over, I decided I wanted to illustrate it for you. Here’s what I came up with. Jesus Christ can be compared to a well. Now, when you lower a bucket into a well, you dip into that water. Now, you could say, “The well is full.” And you could also say “My bucket is full.” And you could also say, after you’ve drunk from your bucket “I am full.” Now, which is it? And the answer is “all three.”

If you have trusted in Jesus Christ alone for your eternal security, then you are “full” with Him.

And further, the well can’t ever run dry. You can constantly go back and “fill” your bucket again and again and again. And each time you drink, you can “fill” yourself.

In another place in the NT, we read this John 14:20 *“At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.”*

Here’s how someone else puts it. “So the Apostle is pointing to Christ as the limitless ocean from which we continually drink from His fullness. We need not run to another experience. You are in union with Christ who is the fullness of Deity in bodily form, so drink from this fullness.

Find the deepest satisfaction of your soul in him. Do you need mercy for forgiveness of sins? Then find it in the full-ness of Christ through faith in Him. Do you need strength to resist temptations? Then drink from the fullness of Christ's all-sufficiency to find that strength. Do you need comfort in the heartaches of life?

Then go to Christ, in whom all fullness dwells, receiving consolation, which bathes your soul. Is this not what Jesus Christ called us to do? John 7:37 *“If any man is thirsty, then let him come to Me and drink.”* Matthew 11:28 “Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.” [Pastor John MacArthur].

And yet, what do we so often do? We search for something that will quote satisfy us. Then, when we achieve it, we find that we have to search again and again and again. Why? Because it’s like the Pastor who forgot.

I don’t remember his name. But, this is a true story. The Pastor was invited to preach at a Church for some meetings which were to last a few days. He was staying at the home of someone from another Church. At the appropriate time, he was picked up and driven to the Church where he delivered the Word of God. After the service he stayed and visited with some of the people; then, is driver took him back to the home of his host.

But, he had stayed a bit longer at the Church than he expected. And, as they pulled up to the house, it was obvious from the fact that the porch light was on, that his hosts expected him even if he was late. He sent his driver on his way and walked up the walk to the porch and the door and knocked. No answer. So he tried the door. It was locked. So he knocked louder. No answer. Thinking the family had gone to bed, he knocked louder.

Then he went next door, (it’s now quite late; near twelve o’clock) to ask if he could use a telephone to call his hosts. When he arrived at the next door neighbor’s house, he thought “No, it would be terrible to have to ask someone to use the telephone at this late hour.”

And he thought he remembered seeing a telephone booth just up the road. By now he was cold and getting colder; but decided to go for the phone booth. It was much farther away that he expected. Then, along the way, it began to snow. He slipped and even fell off the road into a bit of a pond and got both of his feet and legs drenched.

Then, on his way to the phone booth, he saw a motel in the distance and, figuring he might be able to warm up a bit, he made for the motel. After waking up the motel owner, he asked if he could use his telephone. He made the call to his hosts and heard these words, “Oh, Pastor, did you forget? I gave you a key. You put it in your suit coat pocket.” He reached in and sure enough he had a house key. [From a story written by Dr. John MacArthur on The Sufficiency of Christ.]

While we’re out searching for something or even someone who can satisfy us, the key is right nearby. That key is the LORD Jesus Christ Himself.

How much of Colossians 2:10 do you believe is true? You see, He’s the key. Either you are complete in Christ or you’ve mentally erased Colossians 2:10 from your Bible.

So, first, all that can be known of God is found in Jesus Christ.

Second, in Christ dwells (lives) all the fulness of the Godhead.

Third, all of God’s fulness dwells in Jesus bodily.

Fourth, you are not complete in yourself. You are not complete apart from Jesus Christ. You see, God doesn’t expect you to *find* yourself apart from Him. That’s an impossibility. And, if that’s the case, then He must have sent Jesus to solve your greatest need; which is to experience fullness; or, as Paul puts it; “being complete.”

Folks, your character is not what God would have it be. So, He’s placed *you* into Christ and He’s placed *Christ* in you. And the sooner you see that all you’ll ever want or need is found in Him, the sooner you’ll believe the words of Colossians 2:10.

Now, think about how much God loves you. He loved and still loves you so much that He was willing to send His Son to fill you up. You’re empty without Him.

And further, the more you look *at* Christ and the more you look *to* Christ and the more you focus on Him and the more you love Him, the greater will be your capacity to get “filled up” in this life. Your completeness is impossible without Him.

Now, folks, can you see what your life consists of then? Based upon Colossians 2:9 – 10, your life has just one main goal: to be so filled with Christ that His life radiates through your life; that His life fills your life. If all the fulness of the Godhead dwells in Him bodily and you are complete in Him; then your life’s goal is to be completely content with one Person, Jesus Christ.

Now, if God’s fullness is found in Christ alone and we are complete in Him, why is it that you see so little of that fulness in your experience? Here’s why. It’s because you are trying so hard to discover some thing or some satisfaction or some whatever apart from Christ. Folks, His sole concern in you. He’s out to fill you with Himself. That’s what He’s doing right now in your life. It’s all about His fulness being all you need today or that you’ll ever need. That’s what’s happening in time. And that’s what will happen in eternity.

You see, as a spirit born child of God, you are complete in Him. God has equipped you with all you need to live your Christian life. Yet, as you already know; oftentimes some of us have yet to begin living as though this was true. And some Christians believe that “there’s something missing” in their lives.”

Now, add with me the words of the Apostle Peter here. II Peter 1:3 *“According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:…”*

Folks, the Bible teaches that all you need in life can be found in a Person. It’s not found in a philosophy; not in a religion; not in a Church. All you need is found in a Person. That Person is the Son of God. “Christianity is an all-sufficient relationship with an all-sufficient Christ.” (Pastor John MacArthur).

Are you trusting Him and Him alone?

Last, a word from the great Baptist preacher of the eighteenth century, Pastor Charles H. Spurgeon. “The great truth that it is not prayer, it is not faith, it is not our doings, it is not our feelings upon which we must rest, but upon Christ, and on Christ alone.  We are apt to think that we are not in a right state, that we do not feel enough, instead of remembering that our business is not with self, but Christ.

Let me beseech thee, look only to Christ; never expect deliverance from self, from ministers, or from any means of any kind apart from Christ; keep thine eye simply on Him; let His death, His agonies, His groans, His sufferings, His merits, His glories, His intercession, be fresh upon thy mind;

when thou wakest in the morning look for Him; when thou liest down at night look for Him.” (The Forgotten Spurgeon, Ian Murray, page 42.)

 [Use this next section if there are a lot of visitors here]

And just one more word to you about what it means to trust in Jesus Christ alone for your salvation. Here is the greatest need in anyone’s heart. Our largest problem in life is our sin and the way sin separates us from God. The Bible teaches us that our sins separate us from God. Yet, out of love, God sent His son to become your Substitute.

The Apostle Paul in the Book of Romans says this. Romans 3:23 *“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God”* and Romans 6:23 *“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”*

There’s only one way to receive Salvation. It’s through God’s Son. And here’s how. The Bible says Acts 20:21 *“… repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.”* Will you repent and exercise faith towards Him?

Today is the day of Salvation? What will you do about the condition of your heart for eternity?

* To “repent” means “to change your mind about God, Christ, your sin, and God’s free gift of salvation.”
* To “believe” means “to simply trust Jesus Christ alone as the One Who paid the entire penalty for your sins.”

Here’s a simple salvation prayer for you to pray if you’ve never trusted the LORD for His free gift of eternal life. Salvation Prayer.

“LORD, I admit that I am a sinner and in need of your grace. I believe that You sent Your Son to the Cross to die for me. Please forgive me of all my sins and make me Your child. Thank you.”

Shall we pray?

Now, please find Hymn # 692 “God Will Take Care of You.” Let’s sing as though we truly believed the words of today’s message.