

# THE INCOMPARABLE CHRIST

Oren Martin, husband to Cindy and Dad to  
Jonathan, Anna, and Benjamin

# SCHEDULE

- 8:30 AM- Breakfast
- 9:00 AM- Introduction
- 9:15 AM- **Session 1**
- 10:00 AM- Break
- 10:15 AM- **Session 2**
- 11:00 AM- Break
- 11:15 AM- **Session 3**
- 12:00 PM- End

**THE FULLNESS OF CHRIST & OUR  
FULLNESS IN HIM**

Session I

## COLOSSIANS 1:15-20

“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. <sup>16</sup> For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup> And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup> And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. <sup>19</sup> For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup> and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.”

## THE FULLNESS OF CHRIST

- Christ is Lord of Creation (1:15-17)
- Christ is Lord of the Church (1:18)
- Christ is Lord of Salvation (1:19-20)

“We must both read and meditate upon the Nativity. . . . There is such richness and goodness in this Nativity that if we should see and deeply understand, we should be dissolved in perpetual joy. . . . Truly it is marvelous in our eyes that God should place a little child in the lap of a virgin and that all our blessedness should lie in him. And this Child belongs to all mankind. God feeds the whole world through a Babe nursing at Mary’s [side]. This must be our daily exercise: to be transformed into Christ, being nourished by this food.”

--Martin Luther’s *Christmas Book*

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## THE FULLNESS OF CHRIST

“The great sin of our race is to diminish God, but He has resolved to overcome all God-trivializing obstacles and magnify Himself in our eyes through Jesus Christ the Lord.”

- Ray Ortlund (*Isaiah: God Saves Sinners*, 236)

## COLOSSIANS 1:15-20

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## THE FULLNESS OF CHRIST

- Christ is Lord of Creation (1:15-17)
- Christ is Lord of the Church (1:18)
- Christ is Lord of Salvation (1:19-20)

# FULLNESS IN CHRIST

Session 2

## FULLNESS IN CHRIST

- WALK IN HIM (vv. 6-7)
- DON'T BE TAKEN CAPTIVE (vv. 8)
- FILLED IN HIM (vv. 9-15)

## COLOSSIANS 2:6-12

“<sup>6</sup> Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, <sup>7</sup> rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. <sup>8</sup> See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. <sup>9</sup> For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, <sup>10</sup> and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. <sup>11</sup> In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, <sup>12</sup> having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.”

## COLOSSIANS 2:13-17

“<sup>13</sup> And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, <sup>14</sup> by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup> He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him. <sup>16</sup> Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. <sup>17</sup> These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.”

## FULLNESS IN CHRIST

“Union with Christ is right at the center of the Christian doctrine of salvation. The whole of our relationship with God can be summed up in such terms.”

Robert Letham, *Union with Christ*

“We must understand that as long as Christ remains outside of us, and we are separated from him, all that he has suffered and done for the salvation of the human race remains useless and of no value to us. . . . All that he possesses is nothing to us until we grow into one body with him.”

John Calvin, *Institutes*, 3.1.1

## FULLNESS IN CHRIST

“We do not become children of God by striving to please God. We become children of God through embracing Jesus Christ as our righteousness, through putting faith in Jesus Christ, who lived, died, and rose again for our sake. We add nothing to this righteousness of Jesus Christ, which is received as a gift as we lose our old self and find ourselves in new “in Christ” as God’s adopted children.”

Todd Billings

## FULLNESS IN CHRIST

“As when a great king has entered some large city and made his dwelling in one of the houses in it, such a city is certainly made worthy of high honor, and no longer does any enemy or bandit descend upon it, but it is rather reckoned worthy of all care because of the king’s having taken residence in one of its houses; so also does it happen with the King of all. Coming himself into our realm, and dwelling in a body like the others, every design of the enemy against human beings has henceforth ceased, and the corruption of death, which had prevailed formerly against them, perished. For the race of human beings would have been utterly dissolved had not the Master and Savior of all, the Son of God, come for the completion of death.”

*Athanasius, On the Incarnation*

“Let us meditate upon the Nativity just as we see it happening in our own babies. I would not have you contemplate the deity of Christ, the majesty of Christ, but rather his flesh. Look upon the Baby Jesus. Divinity may terrify man. Inexpressible majesty will crush him. That is why Christ took on our humanity, save for sin, that he should not terrify us but rather that with love and favor he should console and confirm....”

“Behold Christ lying in the lap of his young mother, still a virgin. What can be sweeter than the Babe, what more lovely than the mother! What fairer than her youth! What more gracious than her virginity! Look at the Child, knowing nothing. Yet all that is belongs to him, that your conscience should not fear but take comfort in him. Doubt nothing. Watch him springing in the lap of the maiden. Laugh with him. Look upon this Lord of Peace and your spirit will be at peace. See how God invites you in many ways. He places before you a Babe with whom you may take refuge. You cannot fear him, for nothing is more appealing to man than a babe...”

“Are you affrighted? Then come to him, lying in the lap of the fairest and sweetest maid. You will see how great is the divine goodness, which seeks above all else that you should not despair. Trust him! Trust him! Here is the Child in whom is salvation. To me there is no greater consolation given to mankind than this, that Christ became man, a child, a babe, playing in the lap of his most gracious mother. Who is there whom this sight would not comfort? Now is overcome the power of sin, death, hell, conscience, and guilt, if you come to this gurgling Babe and believe that he is come, not to judge you, but to save.”

–Martin Luther’s *Christmas Book*

# GROWING IN CHRIST

## Session 3

## GROWING IN CHRIST

“We can only draw on resources which have already been deposited in our name in the bank. But the whole of Christ’s life, death, resurrection, and exaltation have, by God’s gracious design, provided the living deposit of his sanctified life, from which all our needs can be supplied. Because of our fellowship (union) with him we come to share his resources. That is why he can ‘become for us’ sanctification, just as he is also our wisdom, righteousness and redemption (1 Cor. 1:30).”

## GROWING IN CHRIST

“In Christ’s incarnate, crucified, risen and glorified humanity lies the sanctification I lack in myself.”

- Sinclair Ferguson

## COLOSSIANS 3:1-7

“If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. <sup>3</sup> For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. <sup>5</sup> Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. <sup>6</sup> On account of these the wrath of God is coming. <sup>7</sup> In these you too once walked, when you were living in them.”

## COLOSSIANS 3:8-11

“<sup>8</sup> But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. <sup>9</sup> Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices <sup>10</sup> and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. <sup>11</sup> Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.”

# GROWING IN CHRIST

- NEW IDENTITY
- NEW MENTALITY
- NEW ACTIVITY
  - PUT OFF SIN
  - PUT ON CHRIST

## GROWING IN CHRIST

- “Putting [sin] to death is not only demanded by our incorporation into Christ; it is also empowered and effected by it. Union with Christ, because it puts us into a new relationship to sin and brings us into the sphere of the Spirit’s power, *will* impact the way we live.”

Douglas Moo, *Colossians*, 255

## COLOSSIANS 3:12-17

“<sup>12</sup> Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, <sup>13</sup> bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup> And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

# GROWING IN CHRIST

NEW IDENTITY → NEW MENTALITY → NEW ACTIVITY