

International Bible Lessons Commentary
Colossians 2:6-15

International Bible Lessons
Sunday, February 10, 2013
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The **International Bible Lesson** (*Uniform Sunday School Lessons Series*) for **Sunday, February 10, 2013**, is from **Colossians 2:6-15**.

Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further follow the verse-by-verse *International Bible Lessons Commentary* (also known as the *Bible Lesson Forum*). **Study Hints for Thinking Further** give possible hints to answer the five questions below to help with class preparation and in conducting class discussion: these hints are available on the [International Bible Lessons Commentary](#) website and below. For additional **International Bible Lesson Commentaries**, see the complete and comprehensive [International Bible Lessons Commentary Index](#). The weekly [International Bible Lesson](#) is posted each Saturday before the lesson is scheduled to be taught at <http://InternationalBibleLessons.org> and in [The Oklahoman](#) newspaper.

International Bible Lesson Commentary

Colossians 2:6-15

(Colossians 2:6) As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him,

The Bible clearly teaches that the true followers of Jesus Christ will receive Him as the Lord of their lives as well as the Lord over all. The Bible reveals that the true followers of Jesus Christ will receive him into their lives as both Lord and Savior, and not just as a Savior from sin or the Way to heaven, but also as the One who will live in them and enable them to live in Him so they can do as He wills. As Savior, Jesus reconciles us to God in spite of our past sins. As Lord, He leads us in the way of righteousness and peace. Salvation includes a believer's trusting in the power of Jesus Christ to help them follow Jesus Christ and His way of life in accordance with the Bible now and forever.

(Colossians 2:7) rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

When we love God and seek to understand the will of God in Jesus Christ, in order to do His will and overcome temptations to do wrong, we will become less likely to turn from faith in Jesus Christ or lose our confidence in God our Father. Jesus Christ will help us grow in faith and enable us to understand and apply the Bible's teachings in our daily decisions. As we understand Jesus better and live closer to Him spiritually, we will thank God more and more for all He does for us and for others through us. When we first come to faith in Jesus Christ, Jesus will begin to work within us to establish us in our faith in Him so we will never fall away or cease to trust in Him. As a

mighty oak, our faith in Jesus Christ will grow down with “deep roots” and grow up strong enough to withstand the storms of life.

(Colossians 2:8) See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ.

The word philosophy means “love of wisdom.” The study of philosophy is the study of human ideas, sometimes using and sometimes misusing good sound reasoning. The word theology means the “science of God,” or reasoning about God. The study of philosophy or theology can appeal to human pride and influence us to turn away from or reject the revelation of God to us in the Bible and in the life of Jesus Christ. The “love of wisdom” can lead us away from the love of God and into disobedience (as King Solomon demonstrated, when he decided he was so wise he could worship the idols of his foreign wives which God forbade the Jews to marry, unless they embraced the Jewish faith and came to worship the true God). Paul’s letter warns us to avoid becoming a captive to ideas and teachings that are contrary to the Bible and the teachings of Jesus Christ. Demons or ungodly spirits can also lead people into false beliefs, philosophies, and theologies. The study of philosophy and theology can help some people understand the ideas of others in such a way that they can better and more convincingly share the gospel of Jesus Christ and the Bible’s teachings with unbelievers and lead

them to true faith. However, Paul recognized that philosophical and theological ideas mislead many.

(Colossians 2:9) For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,

Paul emphasized the fact that God fully indwelt and united with the physical body of Jesus Christ on Earth (Colossians 1:19). Therefore, what Jesus said, demonstrated, and lived through at each moment was a true revelation from the true God, the truth about God, the truth about God's love and intentions, and the truth about the ways human beings should live spiritually and mentally in their human bodies in this world.

(Colossians 2:10) and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority.

Some promote the study of philosophy, different world religions, and different religious practices, in order to teach that there is something lacking in our lives even if we do follow and trust in Jesus Christ. They deceive people into thinking that their philosophy or spiritual practice or religious technique can supply what is lacking in following Jesus according to the Scriptures. However, Paul emphasized that we have fullness, all the fullness we will ever need, in Jesus Christ, who will keep filling us as He expands our capacity to receive more of Him through trusting and obeying Him. No one is greater than Jesus is; therefore, we need no other spirit guides or practices adopted from other religions. Jesus Christ is the head over

every ruler or authority; so, we should never accept a lesser ruler or authority to follow morally or spiritually contrary to the Scriptures, but always do as Jesus leads, and He will always lead us morally and spiritually according to the Scriptures.

(Colossians 2:11) In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by putting off the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ;

In the New Testament, especially in Paul's writings, those who promoted physical circumcision as the Jews did needed to know the better way through Jesus Christ. Prior to trusting him and receiving Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord, we followed our emotions and desires (the flesh). The spiritual circumcision of Christ enables us to know and follow the will of God, and even desire to do the will of God at all times in our fight against temptations and sin.

(Colossians 2:12) when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.

When we agreed to be buried with Christ in baptism, we rejected our old way of living in sin and we died to our old way of living apart from God, and we committed ourselves to live wholly for Jesus Christ as revealed in the Bible. Through baptism and the gift of the Holy Spirit, God the

Father raised us to new life, a radically different way of life that seeks to live holy in Christ Jesus. After Jesus Christ rose from the dead, He lived a different type of life—not morally different—He demonstrated different abilities. We have divine power to live a morally and spiritually different life after our baptism. We will have different abilities after we receive our resurrected and glorified human bodies. Those who live immorally will not be trusted to live in the new heaven and earth with resurrected bodies that have the abilities Jesus demonstrated in His resurrected body.

(Colossians 2:13) And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses,

We can make a choice to be buried with Christ in baptism, but we cannot save ourselves from the eternal consequences of past and future trespasses. Because He raised Jesus Christ from the dead, God the Father can make believers spiritually alive with Jesus Christ. Because Jesus Christ died as a sacrifice for us, God can forgive us, mercifully and justly forgive us for our sins. He can also save us from the practice of sins when we are tempted. If we go to Jesus in trusting, fervent prayer for help to obey Him, Jesus will show us the way of escaping temptations and give us the power to overcome them.

(Colossians 2:14) erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross.

Jesus Christ lived a morally and spiritually perfect life; He obeyed and upheld God's law. He lived and died as a perfect example and teacher. He came to die as a perfect and holy sacrifice for us because of our sins. When Jesus Christ died on the cross for us, God fulfilled His holy and righteous law when He accepted Jesus' death as a substitute for the death we deserve. Because Jesus died a sacrificial death as a substitute for us, God graciously forgives us and sets aside the legal demands that we die forever for our sins. When we think of how much God the Father loves us, enough to send His only begotten Son to die for us, we cannot help but love God more and thank Jesus for His saving us from our sins and their consequences. Our love for God will inspire us to live in ways that will bless God and others.

(Colossians 2:15) He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

The purposes of the worldly and otherworldly rulers and authorities that opposed God when Jesus died on the cross were defeated when God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. He made them into a public example of what can happen when anyone opposes or rebels against God; God will win the victory. When we live holy and wholly for God, as Christ Jesus works in us, those who oppose the true God

and the gospel of Jesus Christ become a public example of what everyone should avoid. In addition, we become a public example of how to live victoriously as God conquers evil through us—even if we suffer or die a martyr’s death—even as Jesus is a public example of faithfulness to God the Father and to those He died to save.

Five Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. How can the study of philosophy or human traditions be harmful? How can the study of philosophy or human traditions be helpful?
2. What are some differences between trusting in philosophy and trusting in the Scriptures?
3. How might the “elemental spirits of the universe” mislead someone or take someone captive?
4. What are some of the ways that Jesus Christ is different from someone indwelt by an elemental spirit of the universe?
5. As Christians, what are some of the ways that we should live differently from those who are not Christians?

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