



# ***Complete in Him***

***Col 2:9-10 (Topical Message)***

## ***Man is in a spiritual war with the Demonic Forces of Evil***

### **Ephesians 6:12 (NASB)**

<sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

*Rulers, powers, dark worldly forces, spiritual forces of wickedness*

### **Brothers & Sisters – As Christians we are in a spiritual war.**

Remember the account of the Serpent (Devil) and Eve in Genesis? God told Adam he could eat from any tree in the garden, except from the tree of knowledge of good & evil because if he did, he would die. This was before Eve was created to be Adam's helper. What's implied in the scripture is that Adam told this to Eve. Let's look at what the Devil (Serpent) told Eve:

### **Genesis 3:1 (NASB)**

<sup>1</sup> Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "**Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?**"

### **Genesis 3:4 (NASB)**

<sup>4</sup> The serpent said to the woman, "**You surely will not die!**

We know the outcome of this story. Eve ate the fruit, and gave it to Adam and he ate the fruit. And, just like God said they would die, they died a spiritual death (separated from the life of God), and eventually died a physical death.

*The Devil deceived both Adam and Eve.* He created doubt about God's Goodness and Grace. The Devil deceived them, and Adam & Eve choose to believe the Devil's lie, over God truth!

***This happened to them, and this is still happening today in the life of man!***

The Devil doesn't want man to hear and believe the Gospel message, and *the Devil doesn't want a saved man to understand and believe the power man possesses from being "In Christ" and "Christ being in Man"*. The Devil will always try to divert man away from the truth of the Gospel, and the truths of a believer's identity in Christ!

*Today, I want to look at the Devil's diversionary tactics from the book of Colossians.* The Devil was trying to deceive the Colossian believers (False Teachers) into thinking that they were ***incomplete in Christ***, and for completeness they needed to add Old Covenant Law, worldly philosophies and worldly knowledge to be ***"Complete in Him"***: I will further explain what completeness means in the message:

*The Devil's deception was that they were lacking Old Covenant Law, Worldly Philosophies and Worldly knowledge to be Complete in Him!*

Paul rebuked this demonic deception with 4 arguments:

So today we will look at some select verses which rebuke a believer incompleteness from Colossians chapter 2, and we will discover that in Christ believers have been made complete:

Thus, the title of my message: ***Complete in Him***

***Arguments Against:***

- 1. Need for Special Wisdom & Knowledge*
- 2. Need for Worldly Philosophies*
- 3. Need to Keep the Mosaic Law*
- 4. Need for Self-Denial*

## **Colossians 2:9-10 (NASB)**

<sup>9</sup> For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, <sup>10</sup> and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority;

## ***Biblical Truth – Complete in Him***

### **Colossians 2:9 (NASB)**

<sup>9</sup> For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form

To unpack these verses, we need to understand who Him is? Him is Christ!

***In Him*** – All the fullness of Deity dwells in Bodily form

Paul said this before this in Chapter 1:19

### **Colossians 1:19 (NASB)**

<sup>19</sup> For it was the *Father's* good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him,

Paul is making a very important point about the God/Man Jesus Christ. He is Deity and the fullness of God the Father is in Him in bodily form. Jesus Christ is 100% man, and 100% God in Bodily Form – Amen! ***Because of this fact - by belief in Him***

### **Colossians 1:14 (NASB)**

<sup>14</sup> ---- we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

This is the Gospel message:

Paul then goes on to say as a Believer –

**Colossians 2:10a (NASB)**

<sup>10</sup> and in Him **you have been made complete**

**Colossians 2:10a (NLT)**

<sup>10</sup> So **you** also **are complete through your union with Christ**

**Colossians 2:10a (HCSB)**

<sup>10</sup> and **you have been filled by Him**

**Colossians 2:10 (NIV)**

<sup>10</sup> and **you have been given fullness in Christ**

***In Him*** – You (Believers) have been made complete in Christ, are complete through your union with Christ, and complete because you are filled by Christ

***Notice how this verse doesn't say will be made complete in the future, or do this or that and one will become complete, but that one has been made complete past tense. Completeness in Christ, Union with Christ and being Filled with Christ has already happened upon belief!***

**Brothers & Sisters** – *As a believer you are complete, in union with and filled by Christ. Just like the Father's fullness is in Christ, Christ's fullness is in You! You are in Complete Union with Christ!*

***Now does that blow your mind or what?***

The Devil doesn't want the believer to know that he is complete, in union with and filled by Christ just like the Father filled His Son Christ! **Why?** Because there is power in knowing this and that the believer has a new power source from which to live and draw from. And that is Christ in the Believer:

**Colossians 1:27 (NASB)**

<sup>27</sup> to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, **which is Christ in you**, the hope of glory.

This gives the believer power and hope in living life!

And the believer is a partaker of God's divine nature: The believer has a new God's power living inside of him.

**2 Peter 1:4 (NASB)**

<sup>4</sup> For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of *the* divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.

## **Argument Against:**

### **1. Need for Special Wisdom & Knowledge**

#### **Colossians 2:2d-4 (NASB)**

<sup>2d</sup> Christ *Himself*, <sup>3</sup> in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. <sup>4</sup> I say this so that no one will delude you with persuasive argument.

Paul explains to the Colossians that there is no need for some special knowledge or teaching that needs to be added for a believer to be *complete, in union with and filled by Christ*.

*There was a group of false teachers called Gnostics in the 1<sup>st</sup> century church. Gnostics claimed to be a true believer one needed to be enlightened to hidden knowledge as the basis for salvation. Gnostics, thus, divided Christians into two categories with one group being carnal (inferior) and the other being spiritual (superior). Only the superior, divinely enlightened persons could comprehend the secret teachings and obtain true salvation.*

Paul in Col 2:3-4 directly rebukes this teaching.

There is no need for any additional hidden knowledge for salvation, to be *complete, in union with and filled by Christ*. *There is no difference between Christians all are “in Christ”, and “Christ is in them”!*

## *Paul's Answer*

### **Colossians 2:9-10 (NASB)**

<sup>9</sup> For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, <sup>10</sup> and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority;

The believer is already complete and in no need for some special knowledge to be saved and in union with Christ.

<sup>4</sup> I say this so that no one will delude you with persuasive argument.

Don't listen to it, it's a lie being propagated by the Devil! You don't need to gain any special wisdom and knowledge to be Complete in Him, you already have Wisdom & knowledge in Jesus Christ (Who is in You)!

<sup>2d</sup> *Christ Himself*, <sup>3</sup> in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Paul says this in 1<sup>st</sup> Cor 1:30,

### **1 Corinthians 1:30a (NASB)**

<sup>30</sup> But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God,

Christ is Wisdom, and this Wisdom is in every believer.

**Note:** We just need to access this wisdom (God Revealing it, and the believer listening for it).

## ***Argument Against:***

### ***2. Need for Worldly Philosophies***

#### **Colossians 2:8 (NASB)**

<sup>8</sup> See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, **rather than according to Christ.**

#### ***Don't be taken you captive:***

- a. Philosophy (Intellectualism)
- b. Empty Deception (Nonsense)
- c. Traditions of Men (Man's Ideas rather than Spiritual Ideas)
- d. Elementary Principles of the world (Rudimentary)

***Websters Definition of Philosophy*** - the study of ideas about knowledge, truth, the nature and meaning of life, etc.

***I sum this up to asking what is the meaning of life?***

There are so many humanistic opinions on this question, it would fill the library of Congress.

I like what Paul told the Greek Philosophers in Acts 17:26-28 on this topic:

**Acts 17:26-28a (NASB)**

<sup>26</sup> and He made from one *man* every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined *their* appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, <sup>27</sup> that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; <sup>28</sup> for in Him we live and move and exist

***The meaning of Life – Per the Apostle Paul***

God has appointed the time and place man will live on this earth (Times & Boundaries). They are seeking (Don't know that they are seeking God), and they are groping for, reaching for and feeling for Him, & will find Him if they are sincere in their seeking. God is not far from each of us. In Him we live and move and have our being: Paul is telling the Colossian believers, don't be deceived by False Gnostic teachers that want to add Philosophy, Man's humanistic idea, and traditions to think it will make you Complete in Christ (according to Christ). ***Why?***

***Paul's Answer:***

**Colossians 2:9-10 (NASB)**

<sup>9</sup> For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, <sup>10</sup> and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority;

The believer is already complete and in no need for adding any humanistic philosophy to be saved and in union with Christ.

## **Argument Against:**

### **3. Need to Keep the Mosaic Law**

#### **Colossians 2:16-17 (NASB)**

<sup>16</sup> Therefore no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day— <sup>17</sup> things which are a *mere* shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ.

There were additional false teachers in the Colossian 1<sup>st</sup> century church which were propagating adding the Mosaic Old Covenant Law in order for a believer to be Complete in Christ.

- Food, drink, festival, new moon or Sabbath Day (Mosaic Law)

Paul says that the Law (These Things) are a mere shadow of what is to come (Christ's 1<sup>st</sup> advent), and the substance belongs to Christ. Christ being resurrected from the dead ushered in the New Covenant of Grace. The Bible says that all believers are not under law and under Grace:

#### **Romans 6:14 (NASB)**

<sup>14</sup> For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

**Brothers & Sisters** – Mixing Law & Grace was an error in the 1<sup>st</sup> century church, and is still an error being held today:

Paul tells the Colossian believers don't let anyone judge you in regard to keeping the Law (You're not under the Law)

**16 Therefore no one is to act as your judge in** regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day

**Why? Paul's Answer:**

**Colossians 2:9-10 (NASB)**

<sup>9</sup> For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, <sup>10</sup> and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority;

The believer is already complete in Christ and in no need of adding the Law to be complete, filled and in union with Christ. Once again, you are already Complete in Him!

**Warning:**

The Legalist Believer will judge a Grace Based believer because they aren't adhering to the Law (Pick & Choose which Laws) and rule keeping in living the Christian life. They don't understand that their new source from which to live life from is Christ in them, because they are complete, filled with and in union with Christ. Don't be judged by them and be pressured to live this way. Remove yourself from them if they don't have a teachable pliable spirit to learn they are already "Complete in Him" and continually judge you.

## ***Argument Against:***

### ***4. Need for Self-Denial***

#### **Colossians 2:18 (NASB)**

<sup>18</sup> Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on *visions* he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind,

Let no one defraud you of the prize.

#### ***What Prize?***

That you are “Complete in Him” and the peace that that brings to one’s relationship with God.

#### ***Brothers & Sisters – Enjoy your “Completeness in Him”***

There is no need for self-abasement, worship of angels, or taking a stand on visions.

#### ***What is self-abasement? the belittling or humiliation of oneself. Other Bible versions describe this as false humility!***

Paul tells the Colossian believers that they should enjoy what they have in Christ and being Complete in Him. You don’t need to act with a false humility or explore some mysticism by worshipping angels and trying to understand and interpret dreams.

## **Why? Paul's Answer:**

### **Colossians 2:9-10 (NASB)**

<sup>9</sup> For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, <sup>10</sup> and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority;

The believer is already complete in Christ and in no need of adding a false humility and mysticism to be complete, filled and in union with Christ.

Once again for the 4<sup>th</sup> time today, you are already Complete in Him!

### **Warning:**

I have heard Christian use the term that as a believer we need to die to self. I see this a false humility and self-abasement. Many believers want those around them to know that they are spiritual by the appearance of being humble and giving up the comforts of life.

***They are attempting to die to self by using their Flesh!***

Guess what, no where in the bible does it say as ab believer to die to self, because as a believer we have already died with Christ (Past Tense).

### **Galatians 2:20 (NASB)**

<sup>20</sup> "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

*Believer You Have*

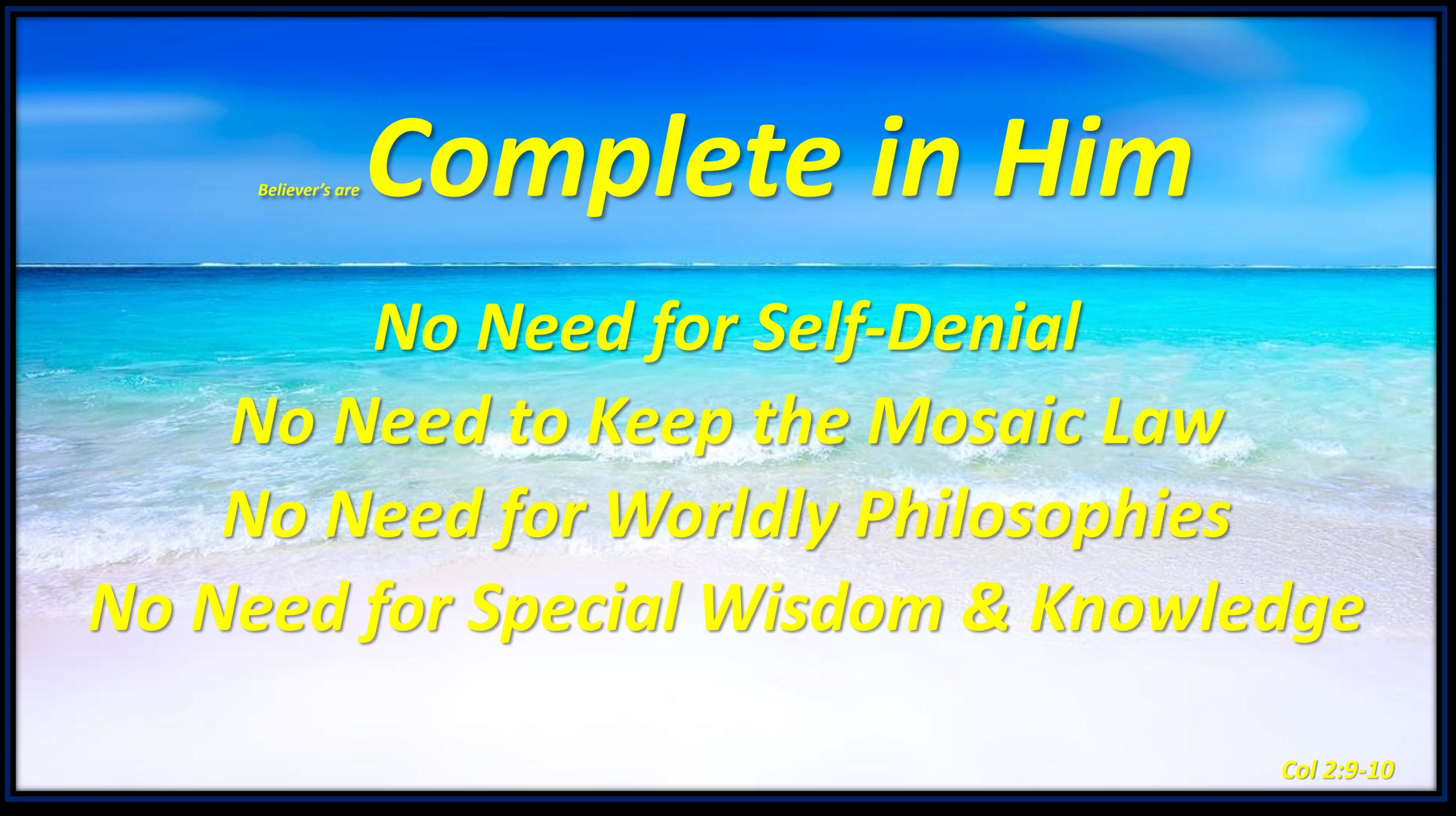
*Died to Sin*

*Died to the Law*

*Died to the Elementary Principles of the World*

*In Him you have been made Complete*

*Col 2:10*



*Believer's are* ***Complete in Him***

***No Need for Self-Denial***

***No Need to Keep the Mosaic Law***

***No Need for Worldly Philosophies***

***No Need for Special Wisdom & Knowledge***



# ***Complete in Him***

***Col 2:9-10 (Topical Message)***