

In Christ

All the Fullness of Deity Lives

“Just as you received Christ Jesus our Lord, continue to live your lives in Him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ. For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority” (Colossians 2:6-10 NIV).

Our world is full of turmoil. Our universities and colleges are full of unrest, our faculty and administration are overworked. Our students (and most likely some of us) are stressed. Some of our students are struggling with identity issues, concerns about their future, what is it going to be like when they go (or don't go) home for vacation, and other major stressors. As we near the end of a semester and we are helping our students research their papers and projects, we may also have the opportunity to help calm the fears and nerves of the students we work with. Through all of this turmoil and busyness we need to once again be mindful of *Who* we serve and why.

We also need to be aware of *how* we serve Him. When we focus on Christ and the Scriptures, we recognize that we have been “given fullness in Christ” and that He is head over every power and authority. Through

His grace we can overcome the panic, anger, frustration, and other negative attitudes that come when we allow ourselves to be taken captive. When we do focus on Jesus—Who is enough, Who is all I need, Who is the fullness of GOD, Who makes everything else pale in comparison—our demeanor and actions can be a light for our students, fellow employees, and others we meet wherever we go.

As we go in to the final weeks of our semester and beyond, into the Holiday Season, we want to celebrate the birth, the bodily form of Jesus that contains the “fullness of the Deity,” the gift that was bestowed on us through Him. Let us remember that with this gift also comes a privilege and responsibility to proclaim, admonish, and teach. “He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ” (Colossians 1:28).



—Anita Gray

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