

“Fill er Up!”

I. **INTRO:**

- A. Just because someone is **sincere** doesn't mean they aren't **sincerely wrong!**
1. E.g. You might have **sincerely** believed that what was in that bottle marked **Root-beer** was really **Root-beer** before you drank it, **but** if its contents was **poison** it really doesn't matter how **sincere** you were in believing that.
- B. False teachers were trying to convince the Colossians that they were “incomplete!” - *“They lacked a deeper knowledge of God.”* [They couldn't have been more wrong]
1. All believers possess the secret to true knowledge because we have **Christ**, *in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom & knowledge.*

II. **FILLED FULL IN CHRIST!**

- A. **BE ENCOURAGED!** (1)
- B. **Conflict** - Struggle. The picture is an **athletic contest** which is strenuous & demanding.¹
1. Vs.2-10 explains Paul's inner struggle for the believers at **Colosse & Laodicea**.
 - a) Note vs.2 starts with **that**...
- C. **BE ENCOURAGED!** (2a)
- D. There was a story of a man who one morning opened his door to get the **newspaper** and was surprised to see **a strange little dog** with our paper in his mouth. Delighted with this unexpected *“delivery service,”* I fed him some treats. **The following morning** I was horrified to see the same dog sitting in front of our door, wagging his tail, surrounded by **eight** newspapers. I spent the rest of that morning returning the papers to their owners.
1. A little bit of encouragement goes a long way!
 2. **Or**, like the **little boy** who said to his **father**, **“Let's play darts. I'll throw and you say, ‘Wonderful!’”**
- E. **BE KNIT TOGETHER!** (2b)
- F. **What is causing them to be knit together?...love!**
- G. **BE KNOWLEDGEABLE!** (2c,3)
- H. (3) It is **in Christ** that all the treasures of divine wisdom & knowledge have been stored up, in hiding formerly, **now** displayed to those who have come to know Christ. (FF Bruce)

¹ LKGNT; pg. 571

1. They are hidden **for us** not **from us!**
 - a) **Illustration:** Our Dentist growing up was Dr. Rice in La Mirada. I remember walking past *the closet*. See, hidden in the closet was a **basket** full of toys, to which when you were finished, you were able to **pick one toy** from the basket.
 - (1) It wasn't hidden **from me**, it was hidden **for me!** :)

2. In **Him** there is the union of the **spiritual** & the **material**; the **heavenly** & the **earthly**; the **divine** & the **human**; the **eternal** & the **historical**.

3. What a tragedy that men will build their houses over a **mine of gold** & never realize it is there, & continue to live in poverty & ignorance.

4. A **poor old woman** was living in poverty & want. A friend, hearing she was in need, went over to **visit** her & if possible **help** her. The old lady complained bitterly of her condition & remarked that her son in Australia was doing very well. Her friend inquired, "And doesn't he do anything to help you?" She replied, "No nothing. He writes to me regularly once a month but he only sends me some **little pictures** w/his letter." The friend asked to see **the pictures** she had received & to his surprise found each of them to be 20 pound notes.
 - a) The poor old lady did not realize the value of this foreign currency, but had only imagined them to be **pretty pictures!**
 - b) Have you just seen the **pretty pictures**, or have you **cashed** them by faith, & **believed** & **appropriated** them?

- I. Yes, the deeper things are **hidden**, so we must: search, study, pray, commune, trust, yield, obey, prove, pursue, & persist like the *old gold-prospectors* of the Calif gold rush.
 1. He wants to bless us with the **joy of continual new discovery & surprise!** :)
 2. **Poem:** Then let me gratefully **explore**, These boundless riches **evermore**;
The fullness of the Christ **divine**, That precious Jesus who is **mine!**

- J. **BE ON GUARD!** (4)

- K. **Religious systems** seem so inviting, & their leaders so persuasive. **But** if you follow them, you will substitute *man's ideas* for **God's truth!**

- L. **BE ORDERLY & STEADFAST!** (5)

- M. **Good order** - Orderly. Used in the *military sense* of a rank or orderly array.

- N. **Steadfast** - Firm, hard, solid. Probably continuing the military metaphor & means "a solid front" or "a closed phalanx."

O. **BE WALKING!** (6)

P. As you therefore have **received** Christ Jesus -

1. **Receiving** is an act which implies the acceptance of a **gift** (opposite of merit).
2. As the **earth** drinks in the **rain**, as the **sea** receives the **streams**, as **night** accepts light from the **stars**, **so we**, giving nothing, partake freely of the grace of God. (Spurgeon)

Q. **Walk** - to walk about, to conduct one's life. [*pres.tense* calls for a continual & habitual action]

R. Because we possess the secret to true knowledge (i.e.) **Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom & knowledge**, **then** all we must do is **walk in Him!**

1. **Walking implies action.** Our religion is not to be confined to our closet.
2. **Spiritual walking** is the opposite of **spiritual striving**.
3. Instead of the emphasis being on **our own strength** it is on **Christ's!**
4. **We walk in Him, in His steps, in His power!**
5. **We must keep to Him, cling to Him, never let Him go, but live & move & have our being in Him!**

S. **BE ROOTED!** (7)

T. Roots have access to moisture . **For a tree to bear fruit it must have its feet in the water.**

1. "What's on the **tree above** the ground - reveals what it secretly feeds upon **underground.**"

U. **BE BUILT UP!** (7b)

V. The thought is that **Christ** is the foundation of a building, on which the **Colossian Christians** were continually being built.

W. **BE ESTABLISHED!** (7c)

X. **Established in the faith** - **Faith** being *the cement* of the building. (Lightfoot)

Y. **As you have been taught** - It is **not enough** for the evangelist to win men for Christ; they must **instruct** them in those principles of Christian living which alone can safeguard the soul, & prevent it from backsliding. (Griffith Thomas)

Z. **BEWARE!** (8,9)

AA. **Cheat you** - To carry off as booty or as a captive. **Don't be kidnapped!**

1. Here the thief is **man-made philosophy & tradition**, pleasing to the world but rejected by the Lord.

BB. **Fullness** - The word **differs** from the expression *Godhead* in that it emphasizes, not so much divine attributes, **but divine nature or essence**.

CC. **Bodily** - In bodily form. Referring to Christ's human body.

1. **Gnosticism believed...the spirit** alone was **good**, **matter** was essentially **evil!**
2. **This belief led its followers to 3 main heresy's:**
 - [1] The Doctrine of **Creation**: If matter is evil, God could not have created it.
 - [2] The Doctrine of **Jesus**: If matter's evil Jesus couldn't have a flesh/blood body
 - [3] The **Ethical approach to life**: If matter is evil, then our bodies are evil.
 - a) **If our bodies are evil, then you either practice:**
 - Rigid Asceticism** (self-denial, starve, beat, deny the body){e.g. Francis Assisi} **Or,**
 - Loose Morality** (i.e.) if the body was evil, it didn't matter what you did to/with it, the spirit was all that mattered.
 - b) Paul will continue to refute this throughout the book.

DD. **BE FILLED FULL!** (10)

EE. Title: "Fill er Up!"

FF. If *in Christ* we find "wisdom, knowledge, all the fullness of God, & we find ourselves complete in Him"... **Why accept a substitute?**

GG. Spurgeon reminds us, "We must **arise** believer, & **behold** the Lord Jesus **yoking** the whole of His **divine Godhead** to the chariot of **salvation!**"

HH. So Christ is to be **received**, & then the Christian is **rooted** in Him, **walking** in Him, & all the while abounding in **thanksgiving**.

1. So for doctrine & duty; character & conduct; life & labour; thought & deed; word & work; **Christ is all, & in all!**