

“Jesus Is Enough”  
(Colossians 1 and 2)

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came to earth to bring God’s full intention for man and put it into motion. Paul was forever fighting for that glorious truth. That means he was also fighting against any error, any lie, any anti-Christ heresy that who Jesus was and what He did wasn’t “enough” to completely accomplish that. In fact, one of Paul’s favorite words was “pleroma” – a Greek word meaning fullness, completeness, abundance; to be accomplished, filled-full; to have a plentitude, a sufficiency. He uses that word (and its cognates) of both God and man. Colossians 2:9-10 is a great example of that: “In Christ all the “pleroma” – the fullness, the completeness, the abundance, the sufficiency – of Deity dwells in bodily form, and, in Him, you have been made “pleroma” – full, complete, abundantly sufficient...”

One of the things that distinguishes Christianity from all other spiritual journeys is that believers in Christ start their journey “complete” – full of everything pertaining to living Christianly. (See II Pet 1:3,4) While many other “faiths” try to get closer to God, acquire more of God, close the gaps between man and his “god”, genuine Christianity is different. Fullness, completion, sufficiency is not the goal of the Christian journey, it is the starting point. We all begin our eternal journey in God’s family with all the “enoughness” we will ever need. In Christ and His “enoughness”, we have a Full and Perfect Savior... Who fully and perfectly saves... and is ever working to perfect the perfectly saved!

Jesus Christ alone is enough to save us. The human dilemma is one of separation (Eph 2:12; 4:18; Col 1:21). Every member in Adam’s family is born dead – separated from God’s Life. Nothing on earth is “enough” to change or fix that condition. Self-rescue, self-deliverance, self-atonement will never be enough. This deadly distance between the creature and his Creator is both personal and infinite. Therefore, the solution must be Personal and Infinite – a full and infinite Person able to fully and infinitely solve our dilemma. Enter the God-man, Jesus Christ: Our personal infinite Deliverer (Col 1:13-14), our personal and infinite Discloser of God (Col 1:15), our personal and infinite Designer (Col 1:16-18), our personal and infinite Delight of God (Col 1:19), our personal and infinite Destiny (Col 1:20).

The only question we must answer then is, “Is He enough? Is this the Christ Who saved us? Is this the Christ of our churches today?” Because this is a Savior Who will stun and awe you. One you will worship. One you will present your body (and all it contains) to as a living and holy sacrifice. Have Him and His “enoughness” and you will have enough! Have Him and His “enoughness” and your heart will learn to sing with the Psalmist, “All my springs of joy are in you!” (Ps 87:7)



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## Praise Reports & Prayer Requests

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## Greetings

I guess we in America could think of January as the "self-help" month of the year. We resolve to set financial management goals, pursue healthy body targets, and aim for more balanced lifestyles. We do have highly optimistic views of ourselves, don't we? As W.E. Henley's famous poem "Invictus" states, "I am the master of my fate, I am the captain of my soul," therefore, we usually commit to try harder to be better people through self-willed promises that will transform us into a different or better person. At least better and different than last year!

I'm all for resource management, healthy bodies, and balanced lifestyles, but what if we were never created to be masters of our own destiny, captains of our own ship? I wonder what might happen in our little corner of the world if we, for the next year, agreed to be shaped and "mastered" by the One we were made to fully trust, led and "captained" by the One Whose good works we were created to walk in before we ever showed up? I wonder how much would be different and better about us - regarding resource management, with our bodies, in our lifestyles - if something as simple as "the nearness of God" became our "good"? (Ps 73:28) Or, if something as uncomplicated as "all my springs of joy are in You" (Ps 87:7) became our presiding resolve?

What if the things we think will make us different, the objectives we believe will make us better, are the consequences, the results of trusting the only One ever meant to be the Master of our destiny, the Captain of our lives? (Matt 6:33) Anybody care to find out this year?

### Calendar


#### JANUARY

14 Alachua Study  
28 Ocala Study


#### JANUARY 31 – FEBRUARY 2

Grace Baptist Church, Knoxville, TN  
865-691-8886

### Praise & Prayer

 The full and free gift of everything  
necessary for godly living

 Sufficiency for the day

 To pursue the simplicity of devotedness to  
the Person of Jesus Christ

 Christ focused churches