

Sample Responses for Colossians 2:6–23 | Rachel Whitaker and Mary Hannah

Structure

From Rachel:

- I. Paul exhorts the Church of Colossae to be wary of the false teachers & “philosophers” seeking to persuade believers to “add” to Jesus. (vs 6–8)
 - a. Paul illustrates faith as being rooted, built up, and established— words that highlight the secureness of our faith based on Christ’s completed work. (vs 6–7)
 - b. Paul stresses that faith should be “according to” none but Christ. (vs 8)
- II. Paul expounds on the Gospel, highlighting its sufficiency for our salvation. (vs 9–15)
 - a. First, Paul stresses the authority of Christ— that the fullness of God dwells in him. (vs 9–10)
 - b. Second, Paul uses circumcision as a metaphor to remind us that the body of flesh has been put off. We are now citizens in the Kingdom of Christ. (vs 11)
 - c. Third, Paul stresses the importance of believers embracing the resurrection. Because Jesus died and was raised from the grave, believers also have been transferred from death to life. This is solely based on the work of Jesus, not our works. (vs 12–13)
 - d. Lastly, Paul reminds us of justification. Jesus’s triumph over sin & death is also our triumph. We have victory in Jesus. (vs 14–15)
- III. Paul returns to exhorting the Church of Colossae to not be swayed by the voices of false teaching & to hold fast to Christ, the true teacher. (vs 16–23)
 - a. Paul lists different lies that the Church has been told regarding rituals & practices they should be required to do to obtain spiritual advancement (vs 16–18)
 - b. Paul states that real spiritual growth comes to believers when they hold fast to the Head. (vs 19)
 - c. With parallels to Galatians 5, Paul once again implores believers not to enslave themselves to “Jesus plus” anything. (vs 20–23)

From Mary:

- **Col 2:6–7** Christian, as you have received Christ, so walk in him.

- **Col 2:8–15**

- 2:8 Don’t get taken captive by empty ideas,
- 2:9–15 Because fullness of life and victory are only in Christ, & you’ve already received them through being united to him in his death & exaltation.

“receiving” empty ideas

- **Col 2:16–23**

- 2:16–17 Don’t get bullied into empty practices, [**judged/disqualified**]
- 2:18–23 Because they draw you away from Christ and full nourishment in him by promoting powerless religion.

“walking in” empty practices

Unifying Theme

From Rachel: Because the cross of Jesus is a believer’s foundation, the only thing we need for a life of spiritual growth & fulfillment is Christ himself.

From Mary: Christian, don’t get taken captive by empty religious beliefs or bullied by empty religious practices because you’ve already received full and victory life in Christ, to whom you are united.

Author’s Aim

From Rachel: Paul’s aim is to warn the Colossians not to be led astray by false teachers who would add to salvation requirements. Instead, he stresses the importance of Christ’s full & complete work on the cross, which is perfectly sufficient for our salvation.

From Mary: Paul aims to encourage Christians to walk in Christ, including by warning them against a particular false teaching, the emptiness of which he exposes in light of Christ’s fullness.