

Pastor's Pen

Complete!

"and in Him you have been filled, who is the head over all rule and authority." Colossians 2:10

Who or what completes you? Many a couple in love say that their spouse completes them. I have even heard people say that a pet completes them. Others say work or hobbies complete them. As for a Christian, there can only be one reply to the question of who or what completes you, Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God.

I love my wife dearly, and she loves me. I tell her all the time that she is perfect for me. I even lip-sync the song Perfect, by Ed Sheeran, to her at least once a week. She is a blessing that I do not deserve, and I am amazed that she is my wife. This June, we will be married 46 years, and I can honestly say I love her more today than I did all those years ago. I don't love another person as much as my wife, and Cathy would say the same about me. However, there is one that both Cathy and I love more than each other. His name is Jesus. He takes preeminence in my life. He is my God, my King, and my Lord. He completes me. Not Cathy, not my children, and indeed not anything else in my life. If the Lord ever called Cathy home, I would grieve and mourn, but I will not have lost the One who completes me. Oh, I would pine and miss her, but I would know she was with the one that completes us both.

Because Jesus completes us, we can live lives full of joy and hope despite our trials. As the days become darker, as our nation embraces what is evil, we need not despair because the one who completes you will keep you to the very end.

There isn't anything a believer needs in this life to complete them outside of Christ. John MacArthur writes this about Colossians 2:10.

As a result of the Fall, man is in a sad state of incompleteness. He is spiritually incomplete because He is totally out of fellowship with God. He is morally incomplete because he lives outside of God's will. He is mentally incomplete because he does not know ultimate truth. At salvation, believers become "partakers of the divine nature" (2 Pet. 1:4) and are made complete. Believers are spiritually complete because they have fellowship with God. They are morally complete in that they recognize the authority of God's will. They are mentally complete because they know the truth about ultimate reality.

Because of this truth, every believer can live without wasting time and energy trying to find something or someone to complete them. For all of those who have been completed by Christ, Paul encourages us with these words, *For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus* (Phil. 1:6).

Your shepherd,

Pastor Mark

Quote of the Week

"If a person doesn't love the church,
they don't love Jesus."
-Voddie Baucham

Grace Gems

"I have Christ"

"If a man has Christ, then what does he want else? If a man has Christ, he has everything. If I want perfection, and I have Christ, I have absolute perfection in Him. If I want righteousness, I shall find in Him my beauty and my glorious dress.

I want pardon, and if I have Christ, I am pardoned. I want heaven, and if I have Christ, I have the Prince of heaven, and shall be there by-and-bye, to live with Christ, and to dwell in His blessed embrace for ever. If you have Christ, you have all.

Do not be desponding, do not give ear to the whisperings of Satan that you are not the children of God; for if you have Christ, you are His people, and other things will come by-and-bye. Christ makes you complete in Himself; as the apostle says, "Ye are complete in Him."

I think of poor Mary Magdalene. She would have nothing to bring of her own. She would remember that she had been a harlot but when she comes to heaven's gates, she will say, 'I have Christ,' and the command will go forth, 'Let her in, Gabriel; let her in.'

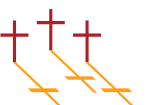
If a man has Christ, he has all for eternity. And if he has not Christ, he is poor, and blind, and naked, and will be miserable forever. Will not you, then, who are listening to me now, resolve, in the strength of the Lord, to seek Him at once, and make Him your Friend?

No matter what may be your state or condition, you are invited to come to Him. Ye blind, ye lame, who are far from Christ, come to Him, and receive your sight, and obtain strength! He is made your all; you need bring nothing in your hand to come to Him.

'Ah!' says one, 'I am not good enough yet.' Beggars do not talk thus: they consider that, the more needy they are, the more likely are they to obtain that for which they ask. The worse the dress, the better for begging. It is the same with respect to the gospel.

You are invited to come to Christ just as you are, naked and miserable, that He may clothe and comfort you."

-Charles H. Spurgeon



Weekly Gatherings

Bible Classes

Old & New Testament Classes
Ladies Class
Young Adults Young Parents
Youth Surge
Sunday Morning @ 9:30AM

Weekday Meetings

Mondays | 7PM
Men's Bible Study
1st and 3rd Saturday
Women of Grace | 9AM

Family Groups

Thursdays @ 7PM
every other week @ Chambers, Cox's,
Patrick's, Brown's and Royall's

Build the Body Teams

If you would like to serve on a BtB Team
and forgot to sign up, please contact the
team leader at the appropriate email
address.

Youth Study

Wednesdays @6:30PM
Youth Study and AWANA!

Service Times

Sunday Services 8AM & 11:00AM
Sunday School 9:30AM
Children's Church @11:00AM

Giving from service on 04/09/2023

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|--------------------------|-------------|
| General Offering | 9,599.48 |
| Building Fund | 2,273.00 |
| Benevolence | 385.00 |
| G3 Easter Offering | 831.00 |
| Uganda Missions | 25.00 |
| Total | \$13,113.48 |
| Attendance | 344 |
| Online | 35 |

G3 offering raised so far....\$1,155.00

Build the Body Ministries

Women's Ministry-women@ghbcva.org
AWANA-awana@ghbcva.org
Outreach Ministry-outreach@ghbcva.org
Worship Ministry-worship@ghbcva.org
Men's Ministry-men@ghbcva.org
Children's Ministry-children@ghbcva.org
Youth Ministry-youth@ghbcva.org
Prayer Team-prayer@ghbcva.org
Maintenance-maintenance@ghbcva.org
Fellowship-fellowship@ghbcva.org
Communications-communications@ghbcva.org
Front Line-frontline@ghbcva.org
Security-security@ghbcva.org



Grace Harvest
Baptist Church
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Grace Harvest Baptist Church

Apr 16, 2023

Welcome