

Sermon Outline

FULLNESS:

GLAD TIDINGS FOR THOSE WHO FEEL THAT THEY ARE NEVER ENOUGH
(COLOSSIANS 2:9-10)

I. Introduction

- A. Christmas is a season of *abundance*, richness, generosity.
- B. But one of the messages we get from the world is that *we are never good enough*. We are not...
 - ...hardworking enough.
 - ...educated enough.
 - ...useful enough.
 - ...respectful enough.
 - ...respected enough.
 - ...innovative enough.
 - ...strict enough.
 - ...strong enough.We are never enough.
- C. Is there something that I can take away from the Christmas season that would actually help me to live more fully in a world where I am constantly told and reminded that I am never enough?
- D. The central message of Christmas, i.e., the “glad tidings” of Christmas, is meant to last us for all our lives and help us to live beautifully and truthfully in a world where we are never enough.
- E. The central message of Christmas is that God loves people who feel that they don’t have enough and are never enough—and God desires to give himself to such people in his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

II. The Fullness of Deity (Col 2:9)

- A. “For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily...” (Col 2:9) What do these words mean?
- B. On Christmas, Christians celebrate the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ. Why do Christians believe in Jesus? Why do we follow Jesus? Why do we devote our entire lives to serving this Israeli rabbi named Jesus?
—It is because in this Jesus, “the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily...”
- C. In Jesus, the almighty God himself lives in bodily form.
- D. If that is the case, then Jesus is the most important and significant Man who has ever lived.

1. If Jesus is fully possessed by God, then all of his words, teachings, and his deeds are to be taken as the teachings and deeds of God himself.
2. If Jesus is fully possessed by God, then he is without equal as a philosopher and as a teacher in the world.
3. The eternal God who created life itself, who is the source of all life, lives in concentrated form in Jesus Christ.

III. The Head of all Rule and Authority (Col 2:10)

- A. If indeed Jesus has “the whole fullness of deity,” it means that he is truly “the head of all rule and authority.”
- B. Jesus truly is the *Lord* of all lords, of all rulers, of all governments of the world.
- C. All the powers that exist—whether these are spiritual powers, the powers of nature, the powers of human beings and human societies—are under the power of Jesus.
- D. All authorities derive from Jesus and are accountable to him.
- E. By that same token, all authorities must also reflect Jesus and the way *he* uses his authority.
 1. When Jesus uses his authority, he is not abusive and destructive.
 2. Instead, the lordship of Jesus is always merciful, always kind, always good, always truthful, always nourishing, always loving, always protective, always healing, always strengthening.
 3. The headship/lordship of Jesus is a life-giving headship.

IV. The King Who Makes Peace (Col 1:19-20)

- A. It is important to stress that because the fact that God comes to us in Jesus is not necessarily a good thing for us.
- B. We are *sinner*s, *rebels* against the holy God of the universe.
 1. Not only do we run from God’s Law. We also go against God’s Law.
 2. We go against God’s Law because deep down, if we are honest, we don’t really like God. We hate God.
 3. We hate the fact that he tells us what to do and what not to do, that he wants to run our lives.
 4. We prefer to be free-thinkers, and atheists, and secularists, and agnostics when it comes to God.
- C. Unless we recognize this fact about ourselves, we will never understand why Christmas even exists—and *we will never understand why we feel that we are never enough*.
- D. The reason we feel that we are never enough is because we really are never enough. As sinners, we are moral failures. We are under the law of suffering and death. We are broken people in great need of being saved, of being rescued.
- E. The coming of God in Jesus Christ is good news because God has come not to punish us but to save us.

1. The name “Jesus” means “The LORD saves.”
2. In Jesus, God has come not to destroy his rebellious, hate-filled people but to reconcile them to himself.
3. In Jesus, God has come on a peace-making mission.
 - Colossians 1:19-20: “For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.”

F. God has come in the Lord Jesus Christ not on a mission of judgment, but on a mission of reconciliation, a mission of peace.

G. *Jesus is God's greatest gift to the human race.* To receive *Jesus* is to receive God himself. To entrust your life to Jesus is to entrust your life to God himself. And God is good.

V. Filled in Him (Col 2:10)

A. As a result of being set free from judgment, we can be filled with God himself: “For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,¹⁰ *and you have been filled in him*, who is the head of all rule and authority.”

B. Because of Christ, we don't have to be “not enough” ever again.

C. When we come back to God through Jesus Christ, by receiving Jesus Christ, we will also be filled with God.

D. We must take God at his Word.

VI. Fullness in Jesus Christ

Christmas is much more than the year-end holiday where the adults eat and the kids relax. We must get beyond the window dressing of the secular holiday to the rock-solid Truth that sits behind the season, the celebrations, and the symbols of abundance. Many Christmas carols talk about the “good tidings” of the season. What are these glad tidings? The glad tidings are the Truth that God himself has come to us in the Lord Jesus Christ to save us from our sins and from the powers of evil. Jesus is the Son of God, the Lord of the universe, in whom “the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily...” (v 9). This is the true Gift of Christmas. This is the Gift that will stay long after the wine has run out and the gadgets have died. Will you receive the Lord Jesus? Will you trust him with your life and let him fill you?