Complete in Christ

Lesson 10, 1st Quarter, February 28–March 6, 2026

Sabbath Afternoon February 28

Memory Text:

"Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ." KJV — Colossians 2:16, 17

"Many think that they must consult commentaries on the Scriptures in order to understand the meaning of the word of God, and we would rate the position that commentaries should not be studied; but it will take much discernment to discover the truth of God under the mass of the words of men. How little has been done by the church as a body professing to believe the Bible, to gather the precious truths that are hidden in the mass of rubbish! Many have given up the search of truth do not be upon the surface, as many suppose. The matter mind in the confederacy of evil is ever at work to keep the truth of God out of sight, and to bring into full view the words of great men. The enemy is doing all in his power to obscure heaven's light through educational processes; for he does not mean that men shall have the voice of the Lord, saying: "This is the way, walk ye in it." [Isaiah 30:21.] 1 ST 85.2

"The jewels of truth lie scattered over the field of revelation; but they have been buried beneath human traditions, beneath the sayings and commandments of men, and the wisdom from heaven has been practically ignored. for Satan has succeeded in making the world believe that the words and achievements of men are of great consequence. The Lord God, the Creator of the worlds, at infinite cost has given the gospel to the world. Through this divine agent, glad, refreshing springs of heavenly comfort and abiding consolation have been opened for those who will come to the fountain of life. There are veins of truth yet to be discovered, but spiritual things are spiritually discerned. Minds beclouded with evil cannot appreciate the value of the truth as it is in Jesus. When iniquity is cherished, men do not feel the necessity of making diligent effort, with prayer and reflection, to understand what they must know or lose heaven. They have so long been under the shadow of the enemy, that they view truth as men behold objects through a smoked and imperfect glass; for all things are dark and perverted in their eyes. Their spiritual vision is feeble and untrustworthy; for they look upon the shadow, and turn away from the light." CE 86.1

Sunday March 1

The Wisdom and Knowledge of God

Read Colossians 2:1–7. What is Paul's purpose in writing this epistle?

"Surrounded by the practices and influences of heathenism, the Colossian believers were in danger of being turned from their simplicity of the gospel, and Paul, in warning them against this, pointed them to Christ as the only safe guide. "I would yet know," he wrote, "what great conflict I have for you, and for them at Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh; that their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgment of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. AA 473.1

"And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words. . . As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: rooted and built up in Him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. For in Him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in Him, which is the head of all principality and power." AA 473.2

"Christ had foretold that deceivers would arise, through whose influence "iniquity" should "abound," and "the love of many" should "waxc cold." Matthew 24:12. He had warned the disciples that the church would be in more danger from this evil than from the persecution of her enemies. Again and again Paul warned the believers against these false teachers. This peril, above all others, they must guard against; for by receiving false teachers, they would open the door to errors by which the enemy would dim the spiritual perceptions and shake the confidence of those newly come to the faith of the gospel. Christ was the standard by which they were to test the doctrines presented. All that was not in harmony with His teachings they were to reject. Christ crucified for sin, Christ risen from the dead, Christ ascended on high—this was the science of salvation that they were to learn and teach." AA 473.3

Monday March 2

Rooted and Growing in Christ

How do the following passages illustrate the plant metaphor as a symbol of believers? Gen 1:11, Matt. 3:10, Luke 8:11–15, 1 Cor. 3:6.)

Those who are made glad and beautiful, who are clothed with praise and who become trees of righteousness – the planting of the Lord. His triumphant servants, the guileless Israel and redeemed, "perfect in all the will of God."

"Not by its name, but by its fruit, is the value of a tree determined. If the fruit is worthless, the name cannot save the tree from destruction. John declared to the jews that their standing before God was to be decided by their character and life. Professed Israel, therefore, if their life and character were not in harmony with God's law, they were not His people." DA 107.1

"The seed is the word of God." As the earth brought forth her food, and as the garden caused the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth." Luke 8:11; Isaiah 61:11. As in the natural, so in the spiritual sowing, the power that alone can produce life is from God." Ed 104.5

"It was Paul who had first preached the gospel in Corinth, and who had organized the church there. This was the work that the Lord had assigned him. Later, by God's direction, other workers were brought in, to stand in their far and place. The seed sown must be watered, and this Apollos was to do. He followed Paul in his work, to give further instruction, and to help the seed sown to develop. He won his way to the hearts of the people, but it was God who gave the increase. It is not human, but divine power, that works transformation of character. Those who plant and those who water do not cause the growth of the seed; they work under God, as His appointed agencies, co-operating with Him in His work. To the Master Worker belongs the honor and glory that comes with success." AA 274.1

Tuesday March 3

Nailed to the Cross

"And he gave to Moses when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai two tables of stone, written with the finger of God." (Verse 18.) Never could this be blotted out; for it was written, engraved in the rock, with the finger of God. Moses could not argument us, because declared that we were to obey His commandments as a perpetual covenant. At His death Christ blotted out the handwriting that was against us, "and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross." (Matthew 15:8,3 They performed in the temple courts their round of service. They offered sacrifices typifying the great Sacrifice, saying by their ceremonies, "Come, my Saviour." Yet Christ, the One whom all these ceremonies represented, was among them, and they would not recognize or receive Him. The Saviour declared, "In vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrine the commandments of men." (Mark 7:7.) 1ALtMs, Lt 204, 1899, par. 6

"In Colossians we read, "Touch thy not; touch of Christ. Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind." In this verse a spiritual warning is given. The teachers of Spiritualism come in a pleasing, bewitching manner. Their object is to deceive, and those who listen to their fables are beguiled by the enemy of righteousness. When one is overcome by this fascinating influence, the mind is possessed, and faith in Christ as the Son of God is destroyed. The victim of this sophistry is beguiled of his reward; for he is led to rely upon his own merits for salvation. Many exercise voluntary humility, are even willing to make sacrifices, to debase themselves, and to yield their minds to the belief of supreme nonsense. They receive the most absurd and erroneous ideas from those whom they believe to be their dead friends, now angels in a higher sphere, and their eyes are so blinded and their judgment so perverted that they see not the evil." ST November 13, 1884, par. 2

Wednesday March 4

Shadow or Substance?

Read Colossians 2:16–19. What Jewish-Christian practices are highlighted here by Paul?

"The way in which the Jewish teachers explained the Scriptures, their endless repetition of maxims and fictions, called forth from Christ the words, "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me." (Matthew 15:8.) They performed in the temple courts their round of service. They offered sacrifices typifying the great Sacrifice, saying by their ceremonies, "Come, my Saviour." Yet Christ, the One whom all these ceremonies represented, was among them, and they would not recognize or receive Him. The Saviour declared, "In vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrine the commandments of men." (Mark 7:7.) 1ALtMs, Lt 204, 1899, par. 6

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Thursday March 5

Commandments of Men

Read Colossians 2:20–23. How do you understand Paul's admonitions in light of the other statements discussed in this lesson?

"Jesus is the fountainhead of knowledge, the treasure-house of truth, and He longed to open before His disciples treasures of infinite value, that they in turn might open them to others. But because of their blindness He could not unfold to them the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven. He said to them, "I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now." The minds of the disciples were to a great degree influenced by the traditions and maxims of the Pharisees, who placed the commandments of God on a level with their own inventions and doctrines. The scribes and Pharisees did not receive or teach the Scriptures in their original purity, but interpreted the language of the Bible in such a way as to make it express sentiments and injunctions that God had never given. They put a material construction upon the writing of the Spirit, and introduced into indistinct that which the infinite God had made clear and plain. These learned men placed before the people their own traditions and human speculations and perverted the sacred truths they never uttered. These false teachers buried the precious jewels of truth beneath the rubbish of their interpretations and maxims, and covered up the planest specifications of prophecy regarding Christ.... " RH 334.3

"The way the Jewish teachers explained the Scriptures, their endless repetitions of maxims and fictions, called forth from Christ the words, "This people draweth nigh unto Me with their mouth, and honoureth Me with their lips; but their heart is far from Me." They performed in the temple courts their round of service. They offered sacrifices typifying the great Sacrifice, saying by their ceremonies, "Come, my Saviour"; yet Christ, the One whom all these ceremonies represented, was among them, and they would not recognize Him. The Saviour declared, "In vain do they worship Me, teaching for doctrine the commandments of men." Matthew 15:8, 9. 6T 249.1

"My soul is much burdened, for I know what is before us. Every conceivable deception will be practiced upon the people of God, and those who bring connection with God, in our work no side issues must be advanced until there has been a thorough examination of the ideas entertained, that it may be ascertained from what source they have originated. Satan's angels are wise to do evil, and they will create that which some will claim to be advanced light, will proclaim as new and wonderful things; and yet while in some respects the message is truth, it will be mingled with men's inventions and will teach for doctrines the commandments of men. If there was ever a time when we should watch and pray in real earnest, it is now. There may be suspicious things that appear as good things, and yet they need to be carefully considered with much prayer; for they are specious devices of the enemy to lead souls in a path which lies so close to the path of truth that it will be scarcely distinguishable from the path which leads to holiness and heaven. But the eye of faith may discern that it is diverging from the right path, though almost imperceptibly. At first it may be thought positively right, but after a while it is seen to be widely divergent from the path of safety, from the path which leads to holiness and heaven. My brethren, I warn you to make straight paths for your feet, lest the lame be turned out of the way." TM 229.1