

# The General Electric Power Company Series

Galatians | Ephesians | Philippians | **Colossians**

Lesson #18 – Colossians 2

## Main Idea

Colossians 2 focuses on the sufficiency of Christ and warns against false teachings that threaten to undermine believers' faith. Paul urges the Colossians to remain rooted in Christ and addresses deceptive philosophies based on human traditions and worldly principles rather than Christ. He also speaks against legalistic practices such as food laws, festivals, and asceticism, emphasizing that such rituals are mere shadows of the reality found in Christ. The chapter affirms that Jesus has disarmed spiritual powers and authorities, triumphing over them by the cross. Believers are encouraged to live in freedom, not bound by religious rules, but anchored in the truth and victory of Christ. It is a call to spiritual maturity and discernment.

In the last view verses of this chapter Paul comments that human regulations and rules are powerless to truly restrain the sin in our lives, especially those on a sensual nature and the danger of "self-imposed worship." At the end of the day, it's all about recognizing the death of Jesus and what He did for us. I recently heard a saying from my good friend Bo Cheatham that puts everything into great perspective for us:

*Jesus died for us, but He also died because of us.*

## Overview of Chapter 2

2:1 – 5	Opening remarks
2:6 – 15	Spiritual Fullness in Christ
2:16 – 23	Freedom from Human Rules

## Questions for Consideration

1. What does Paul mean when he says that "all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form" in Christ in Colossians 2:9, and how does this shape our understanding of who Jesus is?
2. In reading Colossians 2:8, what ways can "hollow and deceptive philosophy" still pose a danger to believers today? Consider modern ideologies or spiritual practices that might distract from Christ in developing your answer.
3. How does understanding our spiritual circumcision and burial with Christ in baptism according to Colossians 2:11–12, and how does it affect our identity in Him? Talk about transformation, new life, and personal faith in responding.
4. What does it mean that Jesus "disarmed the powers and authorities" and triumphed over them by the cross (Colossians 2:15)? Reflect on spiritual victory and freedom in Christ.
5. Why is Paul so concerned about legalism and religious rules as reflected in Colossians 2:16–23? How can we guard against falling into similar patterns? Explore the difference between discipline and legalism.



## Colossians 2 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> I want you to know how hard I am contending for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally. <sup>2</sup> My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, <sup>3</sup> in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. <sup>4</sup> I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments. <sup>5</sup> For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how disciplined you are and how firm your faith in Christ is.

### Spiritual Fullness in Christ

<sup>6</sup> So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, <sup>7</sup> rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

<sup>8</sup> See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces<sup>[a]</sup> of this world rather than on Christ.

<sup>9</sup> For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, <sup>10</sup> and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority. <sup>11</sup> In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh<sup>[b]</sup> was put off when you were circumcised by<sup>[c]</sup> Christ, <sup>12</sup> having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

<sup>13</sup> When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you<sup>[d]</sup> alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, <sup>14</sup> having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup> And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.<sup>[e]</sup>

### Freedom From Human Rules

<sup>16</sup> Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. <sup>17</sup> These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ. <sup>18</sup> Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you. Such a person also goes into great detail about what they have seen; they are puffed up with idle notions by their unspiritual mind. <sup>19</sup> They have lost connection with the head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow.

<sup>20</sup> Since you died with Christ to the elemental spiritual forces of this world, why, as though you still belonged to the world, do you submit to its rules: <sup>21</sup> “Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!”? <sup>22</sup> These rules, which have to do with things that are all destined to perish with use, are based on merely human commands and teachings. <sup>23</sup> Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.

### Footnotes

- a. [Colossians 2:8](#) Or *the basic principles*; also in verse 20
- b. [Colossians 2:11](#) In contexts like this, the Greek word for *flesh* (*sarx*) refers to the sinful state of human beings, often presented as a power in opposition to the Spirit; also in verse 13.
- c. [Colossians 2:11](#) Or *put off in the circumcision of*
- d. [Colossians 2:13](#) Some manuscripts *us*
- e. [Colossians 2:15](#) Or *them in him*

