

Colossians 2:9, 10 NIV

“Why would you plow with the old tractor when you have a new one in the shed?”

“For in Christ, all the fullness of deity lives in human form and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority.”

Do you enjoy the full benefits of being in Christ? Imagine that you farm and that you own a shiny new tractor that sits in your equipment shed.

Some of you present today might own new tractors so you don't have to fancy this.

Color your machine green, red, blue, white, or whatever color you wish.

Though you fully paid for this ultra-modern tractor it sits unused in your shed.

In the meantime, you farm with a rusted, antiquated, temperamental beast.

Suppose I'm the one with the new-model tractor but I keep using my old one instead.

You ask, **“Bob, where's your new machine?”**

I tell you that I'm a little awed by it.

I've gotten advice from several friends about how to operate it—all of it differing.

“The controls confuse me . . .

I just can't make it work.”



My shiny, ultra-efficient tractor collects dust like a museum piece.

Meanwhile, that old contraption frustrates me.

In ways, Scripture likens Jesus to that shiny, powerful tractor we never use.

Our text says: we “have been given fullness in Christ” and “all the fullness of deity lives” in him—he is “head over every power and authority.”

Do you enjoy the fullness of being in Christ?

We could be operating efficiently and powerfully.

Instead, outdated, inferior methods plague us.

We're troubled, but have no idea the cause.

In frustration we mope and grumble.

Advertisers besiege us with dietary and pharmaceutical aids, sleeping pills, vacation getaways, and money solutions.

We buy into ideas that sound good and feel good, but last no longer than a weekend fling.

Two facts impress us.

- We live in an immense Cosmos.
- **Awesome energy, power and genius created this Universe.**



Still frame image from the James Webb Telescope of Stephan's Quintet (each is a galaxy, as is our Milky Way). NASA, ESA, CSA, and STScI According to hubble.org, the quintet is 290 million light years from earth.

One light-year equals 5,878,625,370,000 miles.

The Universe's size and complexity astonish the best brains.

Clearly, unfathomable genius and power brought the Cosmos and life into existence.

First class scientists study the human body.

When they unlock a secret, they often find ten more baffling mysteries behind it.

In the “National Geographic Magazine,” Joel Swerdlow wrote about scientists' efforts to understand the human brain.

One question they investigated was, “When does the brain form in a human fetus?”

They discovered something amazing.

Scientists assumed that at conception, cells quickly divide to become various body organs.

They found that until the reproducing cells total about a hundred they all are alike.

They didn't find any difference in them.

They didn't know why after the cells divide to that number some go on to form the brain and others, various parts of the body.¹

Whether scientists have since answered those questions, I don't know.

Have you recently thought about the complexity of your own body?

Think of the stuffs your body manufactures:

Wax for your ears; oil and salty tears to lubricate your eyelids; Acids in your mouth and stomach to digest food; bile to help you digest fat; insulin to deal with your sugar and carb intake

**(The insulin your body creates has a molecular weight of 5808 with the empirical formula-
 $C_{257}H_{383}N_{65}O_{77}S_6$); to say nothing of bones and blood, and their components.**

Liver and kidneys filter blood and water.

¹ National Geographic Magazine, July 1995

We’ve barely touched the subject of your body’s complexity (I’m not qualified to do it, anyhow).

None of this intricacy could have come about without an intelligent being.

The Bible succinctly identifies that intelligence:

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

God formed human beings from the earth’s dirt and he breathed life into us.

Scientists search earth and space for life’s origin.

Yet something else is clear.

The burning issues for most of us are:

Not the size and weight of the universe;

Not the full identity of all the viruses and bacteria.

Rather,

“How do I get rid of my loneliness, emptiness, and bitterness?”

How do I successfully communicate with my loved ones and enemies?

“Most men live lives of quiet desperation,” said Henry David Thoreau.

More specifically:

What can I do about that coworker who drives me bananas, or my mother, who even tells me what toothpaste to buy?

Meanwhile, the specter of death haunts us

Decades ago, a brilliant, well-educated, likeable, very successful young man came to me for marriage counseling.

He held a PhD from an eminent university.

He and his wife were remodeling the interior of their house and he couldn’t decide on the dimensions of one door.



He successfully supervised a whole department at a well-known company.

Yet he couldn’t resolve the size of a door frame.

In separate sessions with husband and wife, it became clear he feared his wife’s

disapproval. “She wants you to be decisive and strong,” I explained.

“You mean she just wants me to make a decision,” he asked, “the dimensions don’t matter?”

Fear paralyzed this brilliant, well-educated mind.

Bitterness and cowardice devastate many lives.

Recall what Jesus assured us:

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”²

Have trouble and fear recently preoccupied you?

Or do you enjoy fullness and confidence from being in Christ?

² John 14:27 NIV

The *Book of Revelation* baffles most people.

The Lord sent Revelation to folks facing uncertainty as we do now.

For those who win in Christ, *Revelation* promises victory and joy. No tears in heaven.

“He (the Lord) said to me: ‘It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. ²Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.’”³

To those who trust Him, God promises victory.

Folks love to hear God’s promises of no tears and the prospect of golfing for eternity.

Folks rarely hear what happens when we don’t trust God, but instead worry and fret.

Verse 8 of Revelation 21 tells us what happens to those who don’t trust Jesus in troublesome times.

“But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars— they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.”

We don’t usually class cowards with sinners yet Jesus tells us they’re first in line.

³ Revelation 21:6, 7 NIV

Note the last in line, too:

“All liars will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur...the second death.”

How do we get that “new tractor” out of the shed and use it for God’s glory and victory in Him?

First, we quit bitterness and worrying.

Jesus in John 14:27 (NIV): “Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”

Have you recently dwelt on how you’ve been wronged, on others’ faults, or fearing the future?



TVs, iPads, and iPhones are among the world’s negative influences.

How well do you feel after you watch an “investigation” on

Dateline, 20-20, 60 Minutes or Fox News?

Advertisers know the effects.

That’s why drug and pharmaceutical companies often sponsor news programs and exposes.

Mental health experts often work hand in hand with those companies and prescribe “calming” drugs.

God’s Word offers superior free advice with no negative side effects:

“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. 8 **Finally, . . . whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.**”⁴

Second, we quit negative input and turn to Jesus.

Note Jesus’ power and authority:

John 1:3, 4 “Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.” Jesus helped create the Cosmos.

All presidents, prime ministers, governments, and organization are subject to Jesus—that includes anyone in office or out of office, past present or future. He will judge them all.

In Christ, we can attain our full potential.

Do you enjoy the benefits of trusting the Cosmos Creator--experience his loving power?

Third, we start each day with God’s Word.

- **We’ll feel positive about what’s going on. We know that God control His Creation. . . that he will take care of liars, cheaters and those who treat others unfairly.**

He gives us moral standards.

He helps us understand other people better.

- **We use Scripture: not as a rule book; not according to denominational tradition or to follow a reformer or church leader.**



We read God’s Word to know Jesus better and to develop a personal relationship with him.

We reflect on Jesus’ greatness and power.

He forgave sin and defeated death for us.

- **Reach out lovingly to serve others.**
- **Tell others of God’s love and power in Christ.**

His mighty “tractor” is available to all believers.

You will have fullness in Christ!

The earth is a mere “microscopic” part of God’s creation, but He loves all the people on it and He wants them to repent and believe in Jesus, His Son and live with Him in eternity to His glory.



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⁴ Philippians 4:4-8