

## Colossians 2:1-15

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**2** For I want you to know how greatly I strive for you and for those in Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face. **2** I want their hearts to be encouraged and united in love, so that they may have all the riches of assured understanding and have the knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ,<sup>1</sup> **3** in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. **4** I am saying this so that no one may deceive you with plausible arguments. **5** For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, and I rejoice to see your orderly conduct and the firmness of your faith in Christ.

#### **Fullness of Life in Christ**

**6** As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, **7** rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

**8** Watch out that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental principles<sup>2</sup> of the world, and not according to Christ. **9** For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, **10** and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. **11** In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision,<sup>3</sup> by the removal of the body<sup>4</sup> of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; **12** when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. **13** And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God<sup>5</sup> made you<sup>6</sup> alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, **14** erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. **15** He disarmed<sup>7</sup> the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

## Psalm 85:4-9

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## **Prayer for the Restoration of God's Favor**

- <sup>4</sup> Restore us again, O God of our salvation,  
and put away your indignation toward us.
- <sup>5</sup> Will you be angry with us forever?  
Will you prolong your anger to all generations?
- <sup>6</sup> Will you not revive us again,  
so that your people may rejoice in you?
- <sup>7</sup> Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,  
and grant us your salvation.
- <sup>8</sup> Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,  
for he will speak peace to his people,  
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.<sup>[a]</sup>
- <sup>9</sup> Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,  
that his glory may dwell in our land.

## Luke 11:5-13

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- <sup>5</sup> And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, <sup>6</sup> for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' <sup>7</sup> And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' <sup>8</sup> I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything out of friendship, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.
- <sup>9</sup> "So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. <sup>10</sup> For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. <sup>11</sup> Is there anyone

among you who, if your child asked for<sup>12</sup> a fish, would give a snake instead of a fish? <sup>12</sup> Or if the child asked for an egg, would give a scorpion? <sup>13</sup> If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit<sup>14</sup> to those who ask him!"