

7/26/18

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Is your life full? Is your life complete? If not, what would it take to make it so? A regular vacation to an exotic location? A boat? A nicer car? A bigger house? Perhaps you feel a little empty because you have no one to share your life with, so your desire is for a husband or a wife. Would spending more time with children and grandchildren make your life complete? How about winning the lottery?

We all have that deep desire for something more in life, something that we think would make our lives complete if we just had it. Sometimes the things we chase after are definitely sinful (the euphoric high that comes from drugs, alcohol, or sexual adventures). But many times, they are not. Possessing nice things, getting married, or having children are not inherently sinful; these are wonderful blessings that God may grant us.

The truth is, however (and maybe this is something you have already figured out), none of these things will ever make life truly complete. Even when we get what we desire, something deep inside of us tells us that it is not enough. Our focus quickly switches to something else that we think will make our lives complete.

Nothing this world has to offer will ever make your life complete because it does not address the real problem with your life. That problem is sin and the resulting broken relationship with God.

The Bible has good news for you. *In Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority. Colossians 2:9-10.* Completeness of life has been given to you. God says in his Word, “You have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority.” In Jesus, your life is complete because he has taken away your sin with his death on the cross. With sin

removed, your relationship with God has been made whole again. That is a relationship that will last eternally, much longer and better than anything else we desire for life in this world.

In Jesus, your life is made complete because he has authority over that which threatens ultimate emptiness—death. By his resurrection, he proved his authority over death and promises that all who believe in him will live even though they die. Talk about fullness! That fullness is yours through Jesus.

***Prayer:** Lord Jesus, my Savior, forgive me for the times when I have looked elsewhere for fullness in my life. Thank you for making me complete by your death on the cross and resurrection from the grave. Help me to rejoice in the wonderful relationship with God that you have given me. In your name I ask it. Amen.*

(WELS E-Devotion, adapted)

The Lord detests all the proud of heart. Be sure of this: They will not go unpunished. Proverbs 16:5

...See you in worship.

Keep looking up because the Lord is always looking down – Psalm 121

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