



The Christian Church at large, has departed so far from the Truth of Scripture that its invited deceiving spirits who parade as messengers of God:—

**2 Corinthians 11:14-15** *“And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.”*

The “church” is floundering in the swamp of self-indulgence and carnality. Ministers have become infatuated with spurious trends, techniques and methods similar to extreme mysticism, magic and witchcraft. They now believe that Christ is not sufficient, we need something more. Such movements are enemies of the cross:—

**Philippians 3:18** *“For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ.”*

In the last days some will depart from the faith and be led by evil spirits:-

**1 Timothy 4:1** *“The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.”*

### **No Key and the Door is Locked**

A visiting preacher faced an ordeal when a member gave him a lift to a house that he was staying in for the weekend. It was in the middle of winter, the driver drove off and when he reached the porch of the house he tried the door but it was locked. (This was the house he was staying in for the weekend with a church family who hosted him). He gently knocked on the door. There was no response. He went to the backdoor it was also locked.

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Not wanting to inconvenience or disrupt his host, it was already midnight, in those days there were no mobile phones, so he decided to look for a public telephone booth and phone his host. He wasn't too familiar with the area and walked for several kilometres with little success. He slipped once or twice on the wet grass on the side walk. It was icy cold, the bedraggled pastor saw a light in the distance. It was an old motel and the night manager was asleep. After waking the manager, by pounding on the door, he requested to use the motel telephone to phone his host. The preacher apologised to his sleepy host and told him of his ordeal. He said, "I'm several blocks away from the house you could come and get me?" To which the host replied, "You have the front door key in your overcoat pocket. Don't you remember I gave it to you before you left? The pastor reached into his pocket and sure enough, there was the key! This is a true story.

## **We Have it All**

Believers are like the "silly" pastor. We have the key, we are saved, we are secure in Christ, but we stumble in darkness, pound Heaven's door, seeking refuge, trying to find comfort but fail to use the key. We have it all in Christ, but we clamour for something more. How foolish of us!

**Ephesians 1:3** *"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every (all) spiritual blessing in Christ. "*

In Christ we have everything we will ever need.

Paul says in **Philippians 4:11-13** *"I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength."*

He is all sufficient.

## **Paul's Struggle**

Despite Paul's many trials he declares Christ's sufficiency:

### **2 Corinthians 12:9**

*"But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. "Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me."*

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## **Corrupt Writings**

As early as the first century of the founding of the Christian Church, deceptive writings were in circulation purporting to be from Thomas, Mary, Phillip, etc. The early church identified these fake writings and exposed them. Dan Brown's book *The Davinci Code* promoted these false Gospels, Paul, Peter and John confront these pseudo-letters:

**2 Corinthians 11:13-15** *"For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve."*

**2 Peter 2:12-22** *"But these people blaspheme in matters they do not understand. They are like unreasoning animals, creatures of instinct, born only to be caught and destroyed, and like animals they too will perish. They will be paid back with harm for the harm they have done. Their idea of pleasure is to carouse in broad daylight. They are blots and blemishes, revelling in their pleasures while they feast with you. With eyes full of adultery, they never stop sinning; they seduce the unstable; they are experts in greed—an accursed brood! They have left the straight way and wandered off to follow the way of Balaam son of Bezer, who loved the wages of wickedness. But he was rebuked for his wrongdoing by a donkey—an animal without speech—who spoke with a human voice and restrained the prophet's madness. These people are springs without water and mists driven by a storm. Blackest darkness is reserved for them. For they mouth empty, boastful words and, by appealing to the lustful desires of the flesh, they entice people who are just escaping from those who live in error. They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity—for "people are slaves to whatever has mastered them." If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and are overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning. It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them. Of them the proverbs are true: "A dog returns to its vomit," and, "A sow that is washed returns to her wallowing in the mud."*

**1 John 4:1-6** *"Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world. You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood."*

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## The Gnostic Writings

To quote Dr John MacArthur, on the subject he states:

“One of the earliest denials of Christ’s sufficiency was Gnosticism, a cult that flourished in the first four centuries of church history. Many of the pseudo-biblical writings, including The Gospel of Thomas, The Gospel of Mary, The Apocryphon of John, The Wisdom of Jesus Christ, and The Gospel of Philip were gnostic works.

Gnostics believed matter is evil and spirit is good. They invented heretical explanations of how Christ could be God (pure, undefiled spirit), yet take on human flesh (which they viewed as wholly evil material substance). Gnostics taught that there is a spark of divinity within human beings, and that the essence of spirituality is nurturing this immaterial side and denying material and physical urges. They believed that the chief means of releasing the diving element withing a person was through attaining intellectual and spiritual enlightenment.

Gnostics, therefore, believed they were privy to a higher level of spiritual knowledge than the average believer had access to, and this secret realm of knowledge was the key to spiritual illumination. In fact, the Greek word “gnosis” means “knowledge”. The gnostic heresy caused many in the church to seek hidden knowledge (esoteric) beyond what God had revealed in His Word and through His Son.

***Gnosticism was an attack on the sufficiency of Christ.***

If God gave Christ (His all) why do we want more?

## Christ’s Deity

Our Lord is the second person of the Trinity—**Refer to Colossians 2:8-10 God in the flesh.**

## Adam and Eve’s Deception

Both Adam and Eve chose “knowledge” rather than “life”. Two trees, one choice and they chose knowledge independent of God’s Word. In essence, this is what the worlds philosophy promotes—Wisdom—Independent of God.

In Christ we have life—**Colossians 3:1-4** *“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.”*

**Discuss 1 Corinthians 2:6-16—Revealed wisdom.**

(This an edited, condensed and para-phrased version by Bruce Woolard of our Sufficiency in Christ by John MacArthur)



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