



# THE FULLNESS OF DEITY

Colossians 1:24ff



# COLOSSIANS 1:24-29

- Paul found joy in his suffering because he knew what was at stake and how it helped others (Philippians 1:12ff, James 1:2ff).
- The Gnostics reveled in the idea that they knew secrets kept from the rest of mankind. It is a play on their own terminology, therefore, for Paul to describe the Gospel as a “mystery” – a secret that is fully revealed and available to all (v. 28). See also Ephesians 3:1 ff.



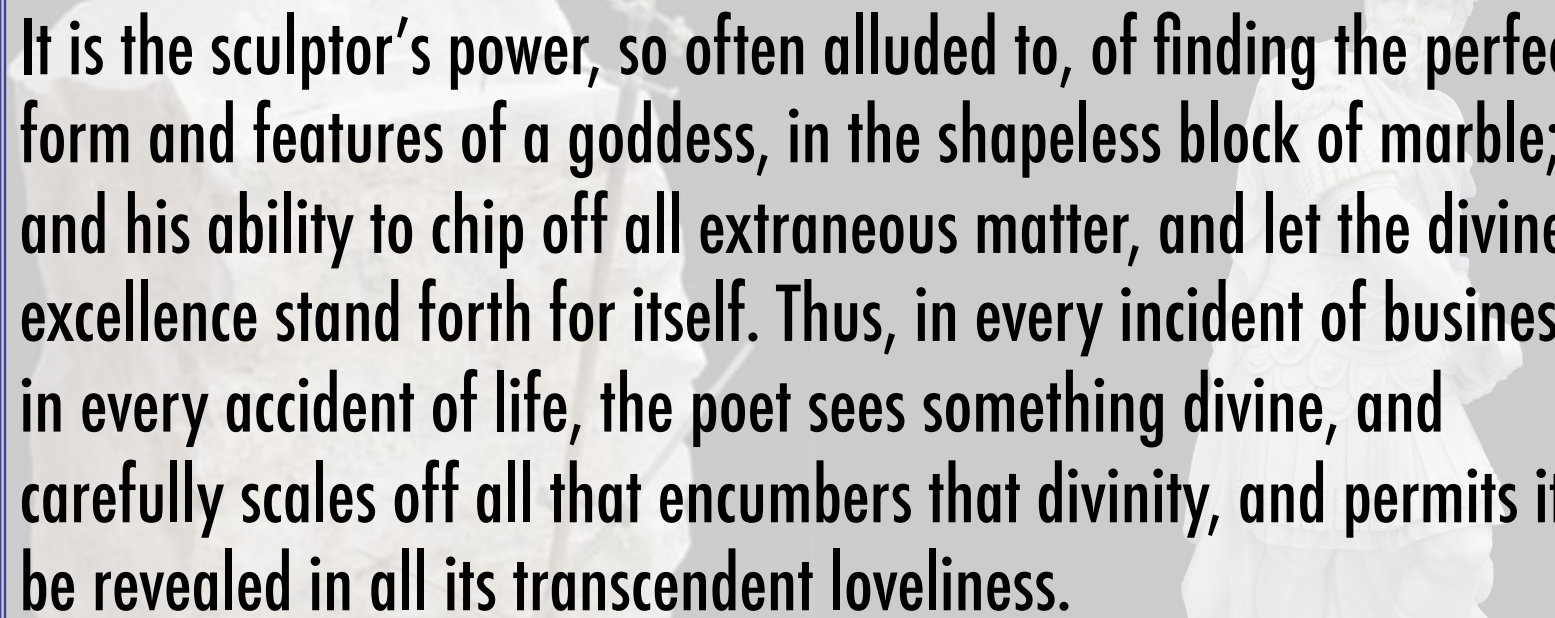
# COLOSSIANS 2:1-7

- It is nice to know that many people work on our behalf behind the scenes.
- The “wealth” of Christianity only comes to those who have “full assurance of understanding.” The faith is not just something “I try, just in case.” I must be fully committed to it.
- Follow-through is expected of the person who has received Christ (John 15:8).



# COLOSSIANS 2:8-15

- The wisdom of the world is nothing but “elementary principles”, yet we are often in awe of it before we put it under the microscope of the Gospel.
- “In Him” is a great phrase. Christ is totally God. Also, notice the clever use of “completeness” and “removal” in vv. 10-11.



It is the sculptor's power, so often alluded to, of finding the perfect form and features of a goddess, in the shapeless block of marble; and his ability to chip off all extraneous matter, and let the divine excellence stand forth for itself. Thus, in every incident of business, in every accident of life, the poet sees something divine, and carefully scales off all that encumbers that divinity, and permits it to be revealed in all its transcendent loveliness.

*-Methodist Quarterly Review (January 1858)*



# COLOSSIANS 2:8-15

- The wisdom of the world is nothing but “elementary principles”, yet we are often in awe of it before we put it under the microscope of the Gospel.
- “In Him” is a great phrase. Christ is totally God. Also, notice the clever use of “completeness” and “removal” in vv. 10-11.
- Verse 12 – Baptism is God’s work, not ours. There is no contradiction or tension between these verses and Ephesians 2.



# COLOSSIANS 2:16-23

- “The substance belongs to Christ”, similar to Hebrews 8:5 and 9:23ff. Whether it is worldly philosophy or Judaism, nobody but God judges the Christian (1 Corinthians 4:3ff).
- It is “defrauding” to distract a Christian from pursuing truth by asking silly questions and imposing harsh standards.
- Just because something has the appearance of wisdom, does not make it so!