



# Ultimate Treasure


*Christ—in him are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*

~ Colossians 2:3

## Discover the Context Colossians 2:1-10

 What are some of the dangers of materialism? How can materialism creep into camp life? In what ways can your actions, words, and attitudes allow materialism to have a foothold among the campers? How can you help promote freedom from materialism in a culture that exalts it?

 “Let us not interpret *covetousness* as consisting merely in the lust of what is another’s. For even what seems ours is another’s. For nothing is ours, since all things are God’s to whom we ourselves belong.” ~ Tertullian (160-230 A.D.)

 In your prayer time confess to God what you are tempted to covet. Ask God to show you how he is calling you to use this summer to overcome your sinful desires and seek Jesus as your ultimate treasure.

All around us people are caught up in materialism. It’s even possible to be swept into it at camp. Staff members, campers, and parents are easily lured by the treasure of money, comfort, or happiness.

But the real treasure of life is Jesus Christ himself. We need to put the focus on the real treasure and seek him every day. We need to remind ourselves of who he is and all that he has done for us and desires to do with us. We do this by accepting him as our only Savior and yielding to him as we live our lives.

But take note that our verse goes a step further and declares that in Christ all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge can be found. The church at Colossae was hearing some screwed-up ideas about God, about religious experience, and about life in general. False teachers were exalting wisdom for its own sake. The church needed to be reminded, as we do today, where to find true, ultimate wisdom.

To know God rightly we look to Jesus, because Jesus the Son of God revealed God as nobody else ever could—since he himself is God. By words and miracles he revealed God as all-powerful, holy, all-wise, judging sin severely, yet as a loving, gracious heavenly Father.

We need to know ourselves as we really are, originally made in the image and likeness of God, but inheriting a fallen sinful nature. We need to know that our fallenness is rotten to the core and will doom us to eternal judgment unless someone rescues us. That someone is Jesus, our ultimate treasure—the only one who lived as a perfect man then paid the price for all our sinful depravity.

There are many other areas of knowledge that we need to know, such as love, truth, how to face temptation, how to respond to challenging circumstances, how to handle stress, false accusations, prioritizing what is most important, and so forth. In every situation, all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are found in Christ. (GHH)