**Sermon Guide: Colossians 2:2-9**

***Christ, Our Wisdom: (1) Our All-In-One Treasure Chest* 8/26/12**

1) The great novelist Fydor Dostoyevsky says,

 “Every ant knows the formula of its own anthill,

 Every bee knows the formula of its beehive,

 They know it in their way, not in our way.

 Only mankind doesn’t know his own formula.”

 Do you agree? Are we “lost in the cosmos?” If you say, “yes”, what are signs that we

 don’t know our formula? If you say, “no”, what is your evidence that people

are full of purpose, fulfillment and soul satisfaction?

2) False teachers in Colossae claimed that Jesus possessed limited wisdom but that you

 Needed different spiritual help for other needs. You could not depend on

 Jesus for all parts of life.

 In what ways does our culture limit Jesus power, wisdom or insight?

 (Also see Dallas Willard quote, *Jesus is Brilliant)*

By claiming that “all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in Jesus”, Paul

Basically asserts that the wisdom Jesus offers is of a higher kind than the

Wisdom offered by a Gahndi, or a Buddha, or Einstein.

According to Colossians 1:15-20, 2:9, why should we expect Jesus wisdom to surpass

 these other notable wise men?

3) The ESV translates Colossians 2:6, “Therefore as you received Christ Jesus as Lord,

 So walk in him.”

 On the quote sheet look at some core practices involved in walking

 In Jesus ways. Which ones do you think you could adopt?

4) Read the quote *Jesus: The Interior Decorator.* Can you relate to Catherine Marshalls’

experience of receiving wisdom from Jesus? Share.

Are there any problems you face which you have never brought to Jesus simply because

 you assumed it wasn’t his area of expertise? If so, why?

*Quote Sheet*

***Jesus is Brilliant***

The biblical and continuing vision of Jesus was of one who made all of created reality and kept it working,, literally “holding it together” (Col 1:17). And today we think people are smart who make light bulbs and computer chips and rockets out of “stuff” already provided!

 He made the stuff!

 “Jesus is Lord” can mean little in practice for anyone who has to hesitate before saying, “Jesus is smart.” He is not just nice, he is brilliant. He is the smartest man who ever lived. He is now supervising the entire course of world history (Revelation 1:5) while simultaneously preparing the rest of the universe for our future role in it (John 14:2). He always has the best information on everything and certainly also on the things that matter most in human life.

--Dallas Willard, ***The Divine Conspiracy,*** 94-95

***The Practice of Gratitude***

*“Bidden or unbidden, God is present.”—Erasmus*

This practice involves “choosing to stitch our days together with a thread of gratitude.

* End every day by saying thank you to God for at least one thing. Then tell God what that

one thing meant for you.

* Create a thank-you scrapbook. Beside photos & pictures, write your prayers of thanksgiving.
* Notice your tendence to make comparisons that result in feelings of dissatisfaction or entitlement. Practice abstaining from comparative statements about what you don’t have. Instead give thanks for what you have.

--Adele Ahlberg Calhoun, ***The Spiritual Disciplines Handbook,* 30**

***The Practice of Meditation, gazing on God in his Works and Word***

* Reading creation as a “beautiful book in which all creatures, great and small, are as letters to make us ponder the invisible things of God”. (Belgic Confession, Article 2)
* Mulling over, chewing on and ruminating over God’s Word and its applicati0on
* Meditating on people; seeing them as God sees them and delighting in them as he does
* Meditating on Jesus and Scripture.

--Adele Ahlberg Calhoun, ***The Spiritual Disciplines Handbook, 172***

***The Practice of the Presence of God***

It is like going on a “God hunt” (Karen Mains).

* Dedicate some task you are doing to the Lord. Talk to him about the task before you begin and again when you are done. Note whether your awareness of God changes
* Develop some prayers that help you stay awake to God. For instance, find a verse or

Prayer that is your waking prayer, your in-the-shower prayer, your dressing prayer, your

 Cooking prayer, your driving prayer.

--Adele Ahlberg Calhoun, ***The Spiritual Disciplines Handbook, 60-61***

***Jesus: The Interior Decorator***

Catherine Marshall tells of trying to create a certain design with some drapes for her windows. She was unable to get the proportions right to form the design she had in mind. She gave up in exasperation and, leaving the scene, began to mull the matter over in prayer. Soon ideas as to how the design could be achieved began to come to her and before long she had the complete solution She learned that Jesus is maestro of interior decorating.

--Dallas Willard,“Jesus the Logician”, qtd in ***Best Christian Writing 2000,*** by J. Wilson, page 273