

Fullness

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Introduction

Several Greek words carry the idea of “full,” “fulfill,” or “fullness.” The adjective *plērēs* refers to that which is “full.” The verb *plēroō* means “to make full, to complete.” The noun *plērōma* signifies “fullness, a filling up.” [Thomas].

Baker’s Dictionary of Theology says, “The Greek word **pleroma** denotes that which fills, fulfills or completes. In Classical and Hellenistic Greek it may mean the entire contents, or sum-total. It is used, e.g., of the full strength of a military corps, or of a ship’s complement. Philo applies it to the collection of animals in Noah’s ark; he also describes a soul as having a full cargo of virtues” [s.v. “Fullness”].

The Fullness Of Christ

The fulness of deity is embodied in Jesus Christ (Colossians 1:19-20; 2:9-10). Jesus fulfilled his ministry (Matthew 3:15; 5:17). Jesus fulfilled prophecy (Matthew 1:22; 2:15, 17, 23; etc.). Jesus fulfilled Scripture (Luke 4:21; 21:20-22; 24:44; etc.). Jesus came in the fulness of time (Mark 1:14-15; Galatians 4:4-5; Ephesians 1:9-10; cf. also Romans 5:6; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; Titus 1:1-3). The church is the fulness of Christ (Ephesians 1:22-23). The earth and its fulness belong to the Lord (1 Corinthians 10:25-29). The NT also speaks of the fulness of the Gentiles (Luke 21:24; Romans 11:12, 25).

Our Personal Fullness

Christians enjoy fulness of physical blessings (Philippians 4:18-19). Christians enjoy fulness of spiritual blessings (John 1:16; Romans 15:29; Ephesians 3:19; 4:10, 13; Colossians 2:10; 4:12). Christians enjoy fulness of comfort (2 Corinthians 7:4). Christians enjoy fulness of joy (John 3:29; 15:11; 16:24; 17:13; Acts 2:28; 13:52; Romans 15:13; 2 Timothy 1:4; Philippians 2:2; 1 John 1:4; 2 John 12). Christians enjoy fulness of knowledge (Romans 15:14; Colossians 1:9; Ephesians 5:18; Colossians 3:16). Christians enjoy fulness of love (Romans 13:10, 8; Galatians 5:14). Christians enjoy fulness of obedience (Romans 8:3-4; 2 Corinthians 10:5-6; Philippians 1:9-11; Revelation 3:2). Christians enjoy fulness of service (Acts 5:28; 12:25; 13:25; 14:26; Romans 15:19; Colossians 1:25; 4:17).

Conclusion

Something is going to fill our lives. It is possible for one to be filled with the wrong things (Romans 1:29-31). The unbelieving Jews filled up the measure of the sin of their forefathers (Matthew 23:32). Ananias and Sapphira were filled with the devil (Acts 5:3). The Sanhedrin was filled with indignation at the success of the gospel (Acts 5:17, 28). Is my life filled with sin or the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18-21; Colossians 3:16-17)?