

5-Day Devotional — Colossians 1:19–20

Theme: The Fullness You Need, the Peace You Can't Make

Day 1 — Fullness Has a Name

Scriptures to Read: Colossians 1:19, Colossians 2:9–10, John 1:14–16, John 14:9, Hebrews 1:3

Devotional:

We spend a lot of our lives trying to get “full.” Not full as in dinner full—full as in steady, satisfied, secure. Full as in “I’m finally okay.” The problem is we keep looking for fullness in places that can’t hold it. Some chase it through achievement. Some through comfort. Some through distraction. Some through the approval of people who can barely remember what they said yesterday.

Paul cuts through all of that with one sentence: “For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell” (Col. 1:19). Fullness isn’t a concept floating in the air. It’s not a spiritual upgrade you unlock after you’ve proven yourself. Fullness is in a Person—Jesus Christ.

Colossians 2:9 doubles down: “In him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily.” That means Jesus isn’t God’s assistant or God’s intern. He isn’t a messenger who points to God. He is God come near, God in the flesh. If you want to know what God is like, you don’t need secret knowledge or mystical shortcuts. Jesus tells Philip, “Whoever has seen me has seen the Father” (John 14:9). Look at Christ. Listen to Christ. Trust Christ.

And here’s the comfort: Christ’s fullness isn’t just something we admire. It’s something we receive. John says, “From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace” (John 1:16). Not one drop of grace. Not one ration. Grace stacked on grace. When you come empty, you’re coming to the only One who isn’t.

So today, stop pretending you can self-fill your soul. That job is above your pay grade. Come to Christ—not as an add-on, but as your source.

Reflection Questions:

1. Where have you been trying to find “fullness” apart from Christ?
2. What would it look like today to treat Jesus as sufficient, not supplemental?
3. How does knowing Christ reveals the Father reshape the way you pray?

Practical Application:

Write down one “false fullness” you lean on (approval, control, comfort, achievement). Confess it to God and intentionally replace it with a simple act of communion with Christ today: read the Gospels, pray honestly, or memorize Colossians 1:19.

Prayer:

Father, I confess I keep trying to fill myself with things that cannot satisfy. Thank You that all fullness dwells in Your Son. Turn my eyes from counterfeit fullness and teach me to draw grace upon grace from Christ. Help me to believe You are truly like Jesus—holy, compassionate, and near. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 2 — God Moves First

Scriptures to Read: Colossians 1:20a, 2 Corinthians 5:18–20, Romans 5:10–11, Genesis 3:8–10, Ephesians 2:13–16

Devotional:

Reconciliation is a beautiful word, but it only exists because something broke. You don't reconcile people who are already fine. You reconcile enemies. You repair what sin tore apart.

Genesis 3 shows us what we do with God when sin enters the room: we hide. Adam and Eve hear the Lord walking in the garden and they run—into cover, into excuses, into fear (Gen. 3:8–10). That instinct didn't die with Eden. We still hide. We hide behind busyness. We hide behind morality. We hide behind jokes. We hide behind “I'm fine.” We hide behind a vague spirituality that lets us feel safe without actually coming to God.

Then Paul drops this mercy: God reconciles “to himself” and He does it “through him” (Col. 1:20). That means reconciliation is not you climbing back up to God. It is God coming down to bring you back to Himself through Christ.

2 Corinthians 5 makes it unmistakable: “All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself” (v.18). God is the initiator. God is the actor. God is the peacemaker. Romans 5 says it even more sharply: “While we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son” (Rom. 5:10). The offended party moves first. That should humble proud hearts and comfort anxious ones.

This also changes how we treat people. If God moved toward us when we were hostile, we can't justify staying frozen toward others. The gospel doesn't make us doormats, but it does make us peacemakers. Ephesians 2 says Christ killed hostility at the cross (Eph. 2:16). If we cling to hostility like it's precious, we're holding tightly to what Christ died to kill.

So today, hear the invitation: stop hiding. God has moved toward you. Come home through Christ.

Reflection Questions:

1. What does your “hiding” look like—what do you use to avoid God?
2. How does God initiating reconciliation reshape your assurance?
3. Who is one person you've been treating like an enemy in your heart?

Practical Application:

Take one step out of hiding today: confess a specific sin to God without excuses. Then take one step toward reconciliation horizontally: send a humble text, ask to talk, or pray for someone you've avoided.

Prayer:

Father, thank You that You move toward sinners instead of waiting for us to fix ourselves. Forgive me for hiding and for trying to manage my guilt without coming to You. Teach me to trust Your heart revealed in Christ, and make me a person who pursues peace because You pursued me. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 3 — Peace Isn't a Mood

Scriptures to Read: Colossians 1:20b, Colossians 1:22, Romans 5:1, Isaiah 53:5–6, Hebrews 9:13–14, Ephesians 2:14

Devotional:

Our culture loves the word “peace,” but usually we mean something like quiet, calm, or not being stressed. Biblical peace is deeper and heavier. Peace is not mainly a feeling; it’s a relationship restored and a verdict settled.

Paul says God made peace “by the blood of his cross” (Col. 1:20). That phrase should stop us. Peace wasn’t wished into existence. It was purchased. It was made. And it was made by blood. That’s not poetry; that’s payment.

Colossians 1:22 reinforces it: we are reconciled “by his physical body through death.” Paul refuses to let you spiritualize reconciliation. This isn’t a motivational speech. This is substitution. Isaiah 53 says, “Upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace” (Isa. 53:5). Peace comes through chastisement—His chastisement, not ours.

Romans 5:1 puts a name on it: “Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Peace comes through justification. Not through self-improvement. Not through promising God you’ll do better. Not through trying to silence your conscience with a new routine.

That’s why Hebrews says the blood of Christ “purify our conscience from dead works” (Heb. 9:14). Dead works aren’t just bad deeds; they’re also religious deeds done to earn peace instead of receiving it. You can be a very busy Christian and still be living like peace depends on you.

Here’s the honest question: what do you do when guilt shows up? Do you run to Christ, or do you run to self-fix? Do you confess and rest, or do you punish yourself and perform? The cross tells you something stunning: God is not asking you to make peace. He’s telling you peace has been made—so come, believe, and draw near.

Peace isn’t a mood. Peace is Christ.

Reflection Questions:

1. When guilt hits, do you run to Christ or to self-management?
2. Where have you treated the cross as “inspiring” but not necessary?
3. What would change if you believed peace is already made?

Practical Application:

When your conscience accuses today, don’t negotiate with God. Speak Romans 5:1 aloud and pray it back to Him. Then take one concrete step of obedience as a response to grace—not a payment for it.

Prayer:

Father, thank You for making peace through the blood of Your Son's cross. Forgive me for trying to earn what Christ already purchased. Cleanse my conscience, quiet my accusations with Your promises, and teach me to draw near with confidence because of Jesus. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 4 — The Cross Reaches as Far as the Curse

Scriptures to Read: Colossians 1:20, Romans 8:19–23, 2 Peter 3:13, Revelation 21:1–5, Ephesians 1:10

Devotional:

Sometimes the world feels like it's groaning under a weight it can't lift. Headlines scream. Bodies break. Relationships fracture. We bury people we love. And we wonder, quietly or loudly, "Is this ever going to be made right?"

Colossians 1:20 answers with a scope you can't fit into a bumper sticker: God will reconcile "all things... whether on earth or in heaven." That doesn't mean every person is automatically saved. Scripture is clear about judgment and the reality of final rejection. But it does mean this: Christ's reconciling work reaches as far as the fall's damage reaches. The cross is not a small solution to a small problem. It's the beginning of cosmic restoration.

Romans 8 says creation itself was subjected to futility and is in "bondage to corruption," groaning like childbirth (Rom. 8:21–22). That's not mere metaphor. Creation is not what it was meant to be. And neither are we. But the groaning is not the last word. Childbirth pains lead somewhere.

Peter says we are waiting for "new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells" (2 Pet. 3:13). Revelation 21 says God will wipe away tears, death will be no more, and He will make all things new. Not some things. Not the "spiritual parts only." All things.

That matters for today, because Christian hope is not denial. It's not pretending life is fine. It's not optimism as a personality trait. It is confidence that Christ will finish what He started. Ephesians 1:10 says God's plan is to unite all things in Christ. Which means your suffering is not meaningless, your faithfulness is not wasted, and your obedience is not irrelevant. You're living in the middle of a story with a guaranteed ending.

So when you feel the ache of the curse, don't interpret that ache as proof that God is absent. Sometimes it's proof you were made for a world that hasn't fully arrived yet.

Reflection Questions:

1. Where do you feel the "groaning" most right now—body, relationships, anxiety, grief?
2. How does new creation hope change the way you endure today?
3. What false "saviors" are you tempted to trust to fix what only Christ will fix?

Practical Application:

Choose one area where you've drifted into cynicism or despair. Pray Romans 8:23 ("we groan... as we wait") and then take one small step of hopeful obedience: forgive, serve, worship, or encourage someone else.

Prayer:

Father, when the world feels heavy and broken, keep me from despair. Thank You that Christ's cross reaches as far as the curse is found and that You will make all things new. Give me patient hope, steady endurance, and obedience that reflects the coming kingdom. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 5 — Live Like the Reconciled

Scriptures to Read: Colossians 1:20, 2 Corinthians 5:18–21, Ephesians 4:31–32, Philippians 2:10–11, John 7:37

Devotional:

One of the strangest things about Christians is that we claim to be reconciled to God... and then we live like cold wars are normal. We hold grudges like they're family heirlooms. We avoid hard conversations. We keep score. We punish each other with silence. And we call it "boundaries" when it's really bitterness with better PR.

But Colossians 1:20 doesn't just teach theology; it creates a people. If God reconciles to Himself through Christ, then reconciled people should look reconciled.

Paul says in 2 Corinthians 5 that God "gave us the ministry of reconciliation" and makes His appeal through us (2 Cor. 5:18–20). That means Christianity isn't just personal peace; it's a public witness. When a church becomes a place where people repent quickly, forgive freely, and pursue peace honestly, it makes the cross look believable.

Ephesians 4 gets painfully practical: "Let all bitterness and wrath and anger... be put away... be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you" (Eph. 4:31–32). That last phrase is the key. We forgive *as forgiven people*. We go first because God went first. We lower the temperature because Christ absorbed the judgment.

This lands in everyday life. In marriage, it means you stop waiting for the other person to crawl first. In parenting, it means you model repentance, not just demand it. With your kids, it means you teach them that hiding isn't the answer—coming to Jesus is. With friends, it means you don't ghost people as your main conflict strategy. With the church, it means you refuse the easy sin of division and choose the hard grace of peace.

And for anyone who feels empty today, remember: Jesus still says, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink" (John 7:37). Reconciled people aren't self-sufficient people. They're people who keep coming to Christ.

Reflection Questions:

1. Where are you currently tempted to maintain a "cold war" instead of pursuing peace?
2. What would it look like to "go first" this week because God went first for you?
3. How can your home become a small preview of reconciliation?

Practical Application:

Identify one strained relationship (spouse, child, friend, church member). Take one step toward peace: apologize specifically, ask forgiveness, request a conversation, or offer forgiveness without conditions.

Prayer:

Father, thank You for reconciling me to Yourself through Christ and making peace by His cross. Forgive me for clinging to bitterness and for treating division like it's normal. Make me a person of repentance, humility, and peace. Help our church and our homes to reflect the reconciliation You have given us in Jesus. In Jesus' name, Amen.