

Dear Javier,

Thank you for visiting the New Haven Bible Student web site. You asked us to comment on Colossians 2:9.

Before we comment on Colossians 2:9 we will present three translations of this verse.

“For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.” (Authorized King James Version)

“For it is in Christ that the fullness of God’s nature dwells embodied.” (Weymouth)

“For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the divine nature bodily.” (Revised Version Improved and Corrected)

The Greek word “theotes,” (Strong’s #2320) derived from “theos” (#2316 deity or magistrate), can mean divine nature or divine quality. Unfortunately, some early translations, such as the King James Version above, use the word “Godhead” instead of “divine nature,” thereby attributing a personality, rather than denoting a quality of character. The word “Godhead” is a bad translation that leads to the assumption that God and Jesus are one and the same. When Colossians 2:9 is translated correctly, as it is in Weymouth and the RVIC above, we readily perceive that the verse means that Christ possesses God’s character and is, thereby, the embodiment of God’s nature (all that is good and true).

Earlier in the book of Colossians (chapter 1:15) the separateness of God and Jesus is addressed. “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.” “Image” in Strong’s Concordance means “a faintness as a copy; to resemble or to be like; representation; resemblance.” “Firstborn” means to be “foremost in place, order or importance; best, first of all.” These definitions tell us that Jesus is a representation of God, a copy in that he resembled God. Jesus himself says, “My teaching is not my own. It comes from him who sent me.” (John 7:16) When Jesus walked the earth he did the will of his Father, not his own. “For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.” (John 6:38) During his ministry Jesus was always praying to his Father for guidance. Even though he laid down his perfect human life at Jordan when he received the holy spirit, there were still parts of God’s plan that were not revealed to him. For example, he did not yet know the date or the time of his second presence. “No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.” (Matthew 24:36) Of course, after his death and resurrection he knew all things. God rewarded him with immortality and gave him all power in heaven and earth. “Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (Philippians 2:9-11)

Colossians 2:10 says, “and in Him you are made complete.” We believe that, if faithful, we also will obtain immortality in heaven. “For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.” (Romans 8:29) In this sense we will be like Christ, just as Christ is like his Father. We will have the character of God, our Father, and Christ, our brother, but we will keep our individuality, just as Jesus is an individual, separate from his Father.

We hope our comments on Colossians 2:9 have been of value to you.

Sincerely,

**The New Haven Bible Students**