

**THEME: WHO I AM IN CHRIST.**

**TOPIC: I AM MADE WHOLE.**

**TEXT: 1 THESSALONIANS 5:23, 1 CORINTHIANS 1:8-9; ROMANS 16:20, HEBREWS 4:12; ECCLESIASTES 12:13**

**Introduction:**

As we come towards the end of our series on “Who I am in Christ. This is a great verse to end with 1 Thess. 5:23, which talks about the fact that we have been made whole in Christ.

**1. We have been Made Whole (Complete) – Colossians 2:10 AMPC**

The whole fullness of deity dwells in Jesus, meaning He is both entirely man and entirely God. In this text Paul links the "filling" to the way Christ relates to believers. Jesus serves as the connection between the believer and God the Father. He is the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6), the only way of salvation (Acts 4:12).

- a. We are complete at conversion. It is not by works but by faith alone that sinners are saved (Ephesians 2:8-9).
- b. We are complete only in Christ. Spirituality has a location and it is ‘in Christ’.
- c. All believers are complete. There is no class or caste system in Christ.
- d. God completed believers through the ministry of the Holy Spirit who applied the positional benefits of Christ’s redemptive work to them.

**2. All things will be reconciled to the creator – Colossians 1:19-20**

Someday all of humankind will be brought together under the reign of the one true God. Creation, which had gone wild and threatening since sin and death had poisoned the world, would be made whole once more as all things became reconciled to their Creator.

**Q:** How does the above help our hope in Christ Jesus?

**3. There’s No Substitute for Christ – Philippians 4:18-19, 2 Peter 1:3**

We need to realize that there is no substitute for Christ and that in Him we have all that we need. When believers drift into worldly living, or are taken prey by man-made systems, it is usually because they feel they lack something that Jesus Christ cannot supply. “You are made full in Him!” What a wonderful position we have in Christ!

**Q:** Are you able to say that Christ is sufficient for you?

**4. God of Peace – 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; Philippians 4:7**

In the above text, Paul refers to God as the God of peace. The peace of God, which transcends all understanding, is the harmony and calmness of body, mind, and spirit trusting in the power and grace of God.

Shalom is the well-known Hebrew word for “peace,” carries with it the idea of wholeness, perfection, togetherness, integration, harmonization.

The closer we walk with him, the more peace we experience. Johnathan Sacks said, “Peace comes when we see our reflection in the face of God and let go of the desire to be someone else.”

**Q:** How is peace directly proportional to our walk with God?

## **5. Growing in the peace of God.- 2 Peter 1:2**

The first time we feel this shalom is when you accept Christ, when our guilty consciences are washed clean. The peace grows as we get to know God better over time. We can walk in this peace daily when we recognize that He really will make all things work together for our good.

**Q:** What do we need to do, in order to grow in peace?

## **6. Wholeness – Body, Soul, and Spirit – Philippians 5:23**

Paul asks the God of peace to sanctify the Thessalonians ‘through and through’. He does not want any part of their being to fall short of entire consecration to God. He wants them to be separate from a life of sin and fully dedicated to the glory of God. This is the radical and perfect holiness that only God provides, a holiness that is not yet fully realized, but shall be ours when Christ returns.

Paul is not teaching sinless perfection, but urging the Thessalonians to give themselves entirely to God so they can be changed into His likeness Paul's prayer is based on God's character.

## **Conclusion**

Our understanding of the truth that we have been made whole in Christ, tells us that our hope is not in vain. That is why we need not fear the approaching day of Judgement. Our certainty is wrapped up in God, who will complete what He has begun. Our sanctification and preservation are guaranteed in Him.

Such a confidence, however, must never lead to moral laxity, for a true reception of God's grace leads to a heartfelt determination to obey His commands. If the safest way to build a house is to obey instructions, how much more should we obey God's instructions when building our lives?

When you make a consistent effort to begin your day by spending time with God intently studying the Bible you will see changes and major growth in your faith. Remember God's word is our weapon—the sword of the spirit—our defensive weapon against the enemies attack. (Ephesians 6:17)