



On Earth As It Is In Heaven

THE LETTER TO THE COLOSSIANS



ST. JOHN'S
DARLINGHURST
EST. 1849

‘I have come that [you] might have life,
and have it to the full.’

JESUS (*John 10.10*)

‘For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity
lives in bodily form, and in Christ you
have been brought to fullness.’

—*Colossians 2.9–10*

Christ Our Fullness

COLOSSIANS 2.6–23

1. Captive to the World.
2. Entering a New World.
3. Enjoying the World.

Key Question:

- *When you feel a lack, what do you do to get filled up?*



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elemental spiritual forces

elemental spiritual forces
powers & authorities

‘See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.’

—*Colossians 2.8*

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ELEMENTAL SPIRITUAL FORCES

scientific materialism

‘The greatest trick the Devil ever pulled
was convincing the world he didn’t exist.’

—*Baudelaire*

ELEMENTAL SPIRITUAL FORCES

scientific materialism

astrology

ELEMENTAL SPIRITUAL FORCES

scientific materialism

astrology

social structures



Francesco Salviati (Italian, 1510–1563)
The Three Fates (1550)
oil on panel

ELEMENTAL SPIRITUAL FORCES

scientific materialism

astrology

social structures

ELEMENTAL SPIRITUAL FORCES

scientific materialism

astrology

social structures

The Market



ELEMENTAL SPIRITUAL FORCES

scientific materialism

astrology

social structures

The Market

‘You cannot serve both
God and Mammon.’

JESUS (*Matthew 6.24*)

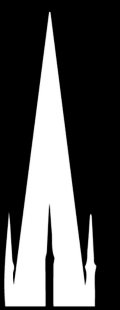
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‘...having disarmed the powers
and authorities, he made a public
spectacle of them, triumphing over
them by the cross.’

—*Colossians 2.15*



Gustave Doré (French, 1832–1883)
*The Triumph of Christianity over
Paganism* (1868).
Oil on canvas.

Michael



Aphrodite

Athena?
Ares?

Hephaestus

Helios

Artemis and Apollo?

Orpheus

Zeus

Hera

Cronus

Gods of Egypt /
Gods of the Orient

Pharaoh

Mithras?

Satan

Hermes

Dionysus?

Assyrian /
Persian God?

The Sacred
Bull



Gustave Doré (French, 1832–1883)
*The Triumph of Christianity over
Paganism* (1868).
Oil on canvas.

‘you died with Christ to the elemental
spiritual forces of this world.’

—*Colossians 2.20*

‘For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves.’

—*Colossians 2.20*

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‘In him you were also circumcised with a
circumcision not performed by human
hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh
was put off when you were circumcised by
Christ...’

—*Colossians 2.11*

‘In him you were also circumcised with a
circumcision not performed by human
hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh
was put off in the circumcision of Christ..’

—*Colossians 2.11*

‘...having been buried with him in baptism,
in which you were also raised with him
through your faith in the working of God,
who raised him from the dead.’

—*Colossians 2.12*

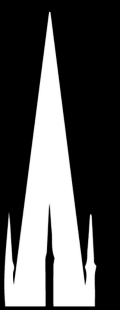
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Do not handle!

Do not taste!

Do not touch!



Handle!

Taste!

Touch!





**Don't
Handle!
Don't
Taste!
Don't
Touch!**



**Don't
Handle.
Don't
Taste!
Don't
Touch!**

‘For everything created by God is good and nothing is to be rejected, provided it is received with thanksgiving.’

—*1 Timothy 4.4*

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