

“STAY WHERE YOU ARE”

COLOSSIANS 2:5-7

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INTRODUCTION

Lack of discipline, instability, inconsistency, no solid roots, weakening of faith and life, fluctuating in belief system, dissatisfied and grumbling about one’s life and circumstances: such could be a description of many in their Christian life and even of many in ministry.

Verse 6-7 state the overarching point of the whole letter body. You have started out well; now, continue in those things in which you have been taught. Continue to have good discipline, stability, and your walk in the Lord.

Moo points out that the best medical comparison of this book is not that of an administration of an antibiotic “for those already afflicted,” but rather the administration of a vaccination against heresy” (p. 175).

We wage a serious battle with the world, the devil, but especially with our flesh!

Paul addressed this issue with the Colossian believers—they were in danger! But, Paul is grateful that in the past they had started well, and in the present they were still holding true. **It is their future for which Paul has concern.**

HAVE YOU RECEIVED CHRIST JESUS AS LORD? THEN BE CONSISTENTLY WALKING IN HIM!

I. ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION (5)

A. United in (S) spirit

Paul is present with the Colossians not simply in that they are in his thoughts and prayers; his presence “**involves a profound corporate sense of identity, based on and mediated by the Spirit of God. It is on the basis of this union, effected in and by Christ and mediated by the Spirit, that Paul can address the Colossian Christians**” (M. 173).

B. Rejoicing in Seeing

C. Well-ordered/disciplined

D. Stability in faith

ALL THIS IS IN CHRIST.

II. PRESCRIPTION OF A SOLUTION (6)

A. Reception of Christ

- Receiving Christ here involves more than believing on His person; it also involves a commitment to the apostolic teaching about Christ and his significance.
- I Thes. 4:1: “As you **received** from us...as to how you ought to walk and please God”;
- Phil. 4:9—“the things that you have learned and **received** and heard and seen in me, practice these things.”
- “Received” expresses the acceptance and application of the Christian tradition found in the gospel and its teachings—contrary to the “traditions of men” of 2:8.

1. Definite action in the past

2. Receiving Him as Lord

- The early Christian confession—Jesus is Lord

- The Messiah, Jesus—the God-Man
 - No one can accept Christ as Savior who does not receive Him as Lord—that’s who He is!
 - II Cor. 4:5—“We do not preach ourselves but **Christ Jesus as Lord....**”
 - Phil. 2:11—“That every tongue should confess that **Jesus Christ is Lord....**”
- B. Walking in Christ—**this command is the basis for all the command that follow in chapters 2:8-4:6.**
Receiving Christ as Lord and walking in Him is the basis for all obedience.
1. Continuously
 2. In lifestyle and doctrine
- III. DESCRIPTION OF A PROCEDURE (7) [4 participles describe the walking in Him]
- A. Having been firmly **rooted**—past action with present continuing results; the state of being rooted!
- Cf. Ps. 1:3—like a tree planted by the waters.
 - Salvation is past, but lasts permanently.
- B. Being continually **built up**.
- Here emphasis is not on Christ as the foundation.
 - The stress is on Him as the unifying, compacting factor—In Him.
 - Growing through the ministry of the Word and prayer, fellowship, the work of the Spirit
- C. Being **established**—settled, strong, unmovable
1. In **the faith**.
 2. In relationship to **your faith**
 3. Again is continual—being continually established.
- Note that all three of these participles are passive—indicating that the work **depends upon God**.
 - *Just as you have been taught*. This clause may modify the third expression—being established; even better, it may modify all three participles: Having been firmly rooted, being continually built up, being established.
- D. Continually **overflowing** with gratitude.
- This participle is active—stressing the responsibility of the believer to be thankful.
 - The picture is that of a stream/river continually overflowing its banks.
 - Lightfoot calls gratitude “the end of all human conduct” (177).
 - This passage may present the view that “those who lack a deep sense of thankfulness to God are especially vulnerable to doubt and spiritual delusion.
 - Paul emphasizes thanksgiving in Colossians **six** times (1:3, 12; 2:7; 3:15, 17; 4:2).

CONCLUSION

Far too many give in, give up, stop moving forward, slide backward, get discouraged, become unthankful.
 Have you been rooted? Are you being built up? Are you being established? Are you overflowing with gratitude?
 Are you holding on to what you have been taught?
 Are you walking continually in Christ?
 Are you well-ordered and disciplined, and stable in your faith?
 Is all this true of our entire church?

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