

Refuse Religious Distractions

“Continue to Live in Him”

Colossians 2:6-10

- Read Colossians 2:6-10

□ “Therefore, just as you received”

o Received is not just an intellectual acknowledgement, but a heart posture of acceptance.

o “belief about” vs “belief in”

o The Colossians had received Jesus as Christ and Lord

□ As Christ, he is supreme and sufficient for ALL

reconciliation and righteousness

□ As Lord (God), he is supreme and sufficient for

ALL wisdom & knowledge

□ In both is supreme and sufficient for ALL our

○ spiritual needs.

- “So walk”
 - The first imperative or “thou shalt” of Paul's letter
 - Conduct your life with Jesus as Christ and God
 - “Be occupied with”
 - In ALL areas (relationships, family, finances, work, school, etc.) need to be occupied with Jesus as Lord and Christ.
- Believers cannot compartmentalize their lives and only accept him as Lord and God over what we choose.
- Our walk must match our talk as followers of Christ. He is Lord and Christ in EVERYTHING that we do
- Four Characteristics of a Walk with Christ.
 - Rooted in Christ
 - Supported, strengthened, nourished

- Built up in Christ
 - Christ provides the structure around which our lives are conducted.
 - Christ shapes the various parts of the Christian Life (sanctification)
 - Perfect rooting vs present building
 - Perfect is once and for all
 - Present is a current and continual process
- Established in Christ
 - We are strengthened and confirmed in the faith
 - Our reliance on Jesus and our belief in his supremacy and sufficiency isn't a static point forever, but deepens and is more confirmed the longer we walk with him
- Abounding in Thanksgiving
 - Only "active voice" verb of the four given
 - "rooted", "built up", and "established" are all in the passive voice meaning WE the subjects are RECEIVING the action, not doing the action
 - It is Jesus who does the work to root us, Jesus does the work to build us, and Jesus does the work to establish us.
 - WE aren't the ones that accomplish the Christian walk! Praise God!

- VS 6 says to walk IN HIM. We must rely on Jesus to live a worthy life and he will complete the worth that he starts in us!
- The only action we take is to abound in gratitude that he is doing the work for us when we are incapable.
- 2nd imperative is to be vigilant against empty and deceitful philosophy
 - It will take us captive (make us prisoners) it is actually dangerous for the believer.
 - I/we practice situational awareness in our daily lives for physical safety. We need to do it for spiritual safety.
 - Paul is speaking to the Colossian heresy which added to the gospel and took away from the supremacy of Jesus. The wisdom being taught to the church was devoid of any spiritual value (empty) and led them away from the truth of Christ (deceptive)
 - According the tradition of man (originating with man, not God, or a twisting of what came from God (sermon on the mount)
 - According the elemental spirits of the world

- "stoicheion" meaning both basic/rudimentary and also dealing with spiritual powers that were not God/Jesus
- Paul is attacking the empty deceitful philosophy being taught, for it is both
- Rudimentary as opposed to advanced
- Originating with demons and spiritual powers outside of Christ
- Not according to Christ
- Any wisdom that doesn't originate with Christ is empty and deceptive, no matter how good it feels, sounds
- We must test all wisdom and philosophy against God's wisdom and reject everything that doesn't align.
- Evil origins of Enneagram
 - Wisdom of enneagram vs wisdom from God
 - Know yourself vs know Christ
 - Power through knowledge vs power through Holy Spirit
 - Truth in self-discovery vs truth in Christ
- The fullness of deity dwells bodily in Christ, not just the attributes of God, but his nature and essence
 - We are filled in him (perfect passive verb)
 - We are filled to the brim, and completed in Christ
 - The fullness contrasts with the emptiness in vs 8
 - Because we are complete in him, there is no reason to search for anything else!
 - Don't be distracted and deceived because you have all you need in Jesus (2 Peter 1:3)

Discussion Questions

1. What areas of your life might you need to examine and ensure that you are walking "in him?"
2. Where do you see evidence of Jesus having rooted you? Where do you see him building and establishing you?
3. How can you show abundant thanksgiving for those things?
4. How can we be vigilant against the empty and deceitful wisdom that does not come from Christ?

DAILY JOURNAL PROMPTS

August 17- How did I first receive Christ into my life?

August 18- What does it mean to be spiritually rooted?
What can I do today to deepen those roots?

August 19- Are there specific areas of doubt or
weakness I need to surrender to God?

August 20- What am I truly thankful for this week?
How can gratitude shape my walk with Christ today?

August 21- Are there worldly ideas or influences I need
to guard against right now?

August 22- What does fullness look like in my daily life?

August 23- Looking back on this week, how have I lived
in Him?