

Paul now comes to the heart of his message. If the Church at Colosse was to be effective in their witness to the pagans, the pre-gnostics, and the Essenic Jews; if the church is to be delivered from the rudiments of the world and come to the full understanding of the Gospel, here is the text. This is always Paul's text when he writes to the church, and there are parallels to these ideas found in all of his epistles.

- I. Therefore: looks back to vs. 5: Their stable faith and joy in Christ and their order.
 - A. The beginning of their faith is to be the pattern for their continuing in the faith: See also Galatians 3:1,2. How do you continue in Christ; the same way you received Him. The law is diagnostic: it is never curative.
 - B. Received: paralambano: either taking someone with you; or receiving from others a tradition. The tense is aorist: decisive: once for all idea. Faith had laid hold on a Person
 - C. Christ Jesus the Lord: Christ: Messiah; Jesus: Savior: Lord: to save He must be Lord. Lord is New Testament for Jehovah. Faith says AMEN to Christ.
 - D. When they became Christians, the event cannot be reduced to a redirection of moral energy; simply making them better people: they became renewed morally because they had become Christians: not the other way around. Christ receives us, not because we are good; but in order to renew and make us like Himself, by His Word and Spirit.

- II. "Walk" ye in Him. Walk means the normal pattern of living. "Peripateo" "Walking around" As you walk around, walk in Jesus Christ. Vine gives a list of the scriptural injunctions.
 - A. "In newness of Life" Rom. 6:4
 - B. After the Spirit: Rom. 8:4
 - C. In Honesty: 13:13
 - D. By faith: 2Cor. 5:7
 - E. In good works: Eph. 2:10
 - F. In love; Eph. 5:2
 - G. In wisdom: Col. 4:5
 - H. In truth: 2John 4
 - I. After God's Commandments: 2John 4:6
 - J. Not after the flesh: Romans 8:4
 - K. Not after the manner of men: I cor. 3:3
 - L. Not in craftiness: 2Cor. 4:2
 - M. Not disorderly: 2Thess. 3:6

But you cannot walk in Christ by trying to do all these things: These things are the result of walking in Christ. The key is always Christ; the other things are diagnostic; and reveal when we stray from Christ, and when we are deceiving ourselves and others.

III. The Illustrations: (Four participles are used here):

- A. Rooted: being firmly planted. [perfect passive participle: "having been rooted" --but still so. no equivalent tense in English] done in the past, but still has effects to day] Similar to the parable of the sower: but there it is the seed planted in the heart; here it is the believer planted in Christ: but the necessity of being firmly planted and taking root is the same. Shallowness of root will bring death and ruin. You must not be half-hearted in your faith. Jesus: "putting hand to the plow and looking back."

Results of not being rooted: Carried away by every wind of doctrine; not being able to endure trials or temptations.

Cure: Use the means: read your bibles; pray; come to church: Abraham; Isaac; David; Moses: these were all godly men: but they used the means. They realized how weak they were in themselves; and flew to Christ for strength and help.

Heb. "Let us come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." The promises are "anchors to the soul" "He shall be like a tree, planted by the rivers of water, that"

Both the foundation and growth are emphasized in this metaphor.

- B. Built Up: [present participle: going on now] Christ is the binding force of the building; "in" not "on" Christ; Once again, Paul choice of language emphasizes both foundation and growth: You must not build on any other foundation; and you must build nothing but Christ. See I Cor. 3 where Paul uses these two metaphors again. Rev. 21:22 Christ is the temple; Christ is the vine.
- C. Established: Continuously strengthened [present participle: going on now.] Confirmed "in the faith." "They may safely and confidently secure their footing in the faith with which they had been made acquainted." (Calvin) Used often in the sense of confirming a business transaction. Constantly confirming the promises. "Faith" = the body of truth. You become experientially more and more convinced that the promises of Scriptures are really yours. You know it in theory; now you know it in fact.
- D. Abounding: Excelling. To have more than enough. "Let him that stole, steal no more...."
- E. "In thanksgiving" To overflow in thanksgiving. This completes the circle of God's blessing.
- a. This lifts the soul away from self-centeredness. Thanksgiving is to another: to the God who made you. Not like the pharisee: "I thank you that I am not like other men....."
- b. Directed toward God: Our problems are always spiritual.
See. Matthew 6:24-34. This is not some interesting little speech that Jesus made that does not need to be taken seriously because no one does this. Rather, this is to be the mind set of the child of God, and there are many who live according to these principles:
- Take no thought for you life: Oh, I'm going to die.....!!" Worry themselves into bad health.
 - Or for your body: "Oh, how do I look.....!!!!!"
 - God knows about the needs of your life and the needs of your body.
 - Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness: My main task, and your main task, is to be conformed to Jesus Christ. to be like Christ.
 - Do not make an idol of God's blessings by being so preoccupied about them that you forget the most important things, the well-being of your soul.

ABOUND IN THANKFULNESS. "Unquestionably, ingratitude is very frequently the reason why we are deprived of the light of the gospel, as well as of other divine favors." (Calvin)