

Colossians 2:6-15

We are studying the book of Colossians. We have entitled our series, The Christ. Jesus is the central figure in the letter, as we will see again this morning. Last week, we learned that Paul was suffering, stewarding, and striving so that the faith of the Colossians would be stable.

1. That stability was rooted and grounded in the wealth and treasure of the wisdom and knowledge that could only be found in Jesus Christ.
2. The first word of verse 6 is the word “therefore.”
 - a. That lets us know that Paul is continuing his thought
 - b. He is tying, what he is about to write, back to what he had just written.

Verses 1-5

Through what he had just written, he wanted to ensure that they were stable in this understanding, fixed on Christ, so that they would not be pulled away from the truth.

1. He wants them stable, In Christ, so that no one could persuade them otherwise.
2. This is what he drives home in our text today.

READ/PRAY

Paul wants them stable, In Christ, so that no one could persuade them otherwise...so that no-one could shake them from the truth they had already received. He says...

Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, 7 having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.

1. How did you Receive Him? By grace, through faith in Christ.
 - a. Elaborate on how to respond to the Gospel
 - b. Repent and Believe the gospel
2. So walk in Him that same way.
3. Galatians 3:1-3 *You foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified? 2 This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith? 3 Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?*
4. In the same way that you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him.
5. You received Him by grace through faith...in Christ alone!
6. You walk the Christian life by grace through faith In Christ alone!

8 See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.

It is in Christ alone that you are saved, sanctified, and stable in faith. We see that Christ is central in 5 ways.

I. You have been made complete in Christ v9-10

9 For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form,

1. Not just some of the fullness of Deity...but all the fullness of deity dwells in bodily form in Jesus Christ!

2. Col 1:15-19

10 and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority;

1. In Him...this Christ...you have been made complete....complete!
 - a. This was Paul's goal that he was striving for back in Colossians 1:28-29
 - b. He was proclaiming Christ, admonishing all, and teaching men so that they would be made complete.
 - c. Ultimately we will be made complete in Christ alone!
2. Jesus Christ in whom all the fulness of deity dwells has made us complete if we are in Him!
 - a. Are you in Him?
 - b. Then everything that needs to be done has already been done. It is finished.
 - c. We are complete and we can be sure of it!

II. You were Circumcised in Christ v11

11 and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ;

Paul compares the saving work of God in us with the practice of circumcision.

1. Only this is a circumcision made "without hands."
 - a. It's a spiritual thing he is talking about, not a physical one.
 - b. And he says that what is being cut away is the "body of the flesh."
2. The New Testament equivalent of circumcision is not baptism!
3. The NT equivalent of circumcision is Christ cutting away "the old sinful body of the flesh."
 - a. Not physical surgery, but spiritual surgery
 - b. Romans 2:29 *But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter*

Bob the baptist

1. he wants peace, prosperity, health, happiness, joy, heaven, etc.
2. He seeks it through new age religions or through the American dream
3. Then he seeks it through Jesus. We think that means he has become a Christian
4. But, Bob is still the same. His heart has not been changed. He is not a Christian!
5. I might have just described some of you this morning.

Ezekiel 11:19-20 *And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in my statutes and keep my rules and obey them. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God*

III. Baptized into Christ v12

12 having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

1. Buried with Him
2. Raised with Him

Romans 6:3-5 *Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.*

IV. Made alive with Christ 13a

13 When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him,

Ephesians 2:1-10

1. You were dead v1-3

And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, 2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air; of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. 3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

2. But God v4-10

But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

V. Forgiven by Christ v13b-15

Listen to what the Holy Spirit says through Paul here...

having forgiven us all our transgressions,

1. Transgressions...law breaking
2. ALL!! Past, present, future....we are clean!!!!!!

14 having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us;

1. There is a record of our law breaking
2. There is a certificate of debt consisting of decrees (laws) against us.
 - a. The Torah
 - b. 10 commandments
 - c. 2 greatest commandments
3. If we sin just 5 times a day, in one year that's 1825 sins. If you live to be 70 that is breaking God's law over 127,000 times!!
4. If we have broken just one, we have broken them all and yet....He canceled it out!!!!

and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

1. He forgave us
2. He canceled our debt
3. He nailed it to the cross and there it was all judged in full

15 When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities,

1. He took away Satan's weapon: death.

2. 1 Corinthians 15:55-57 *O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?" 56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; 57 but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.

1. He then made a public display or spectacle of him
2. This is a picture of a victorious Roman general parading his defeated enemies through the streets of Rome.

Paul's overarching concern in the text is that we not be pulled away from this Christ.

1. Who made us complete in Him
2. Who spiritually circumcised us
3. Who we have been baptized with
4. Who took us from death to life
5. Who completely forgave us

What on earth could pull us away from this Christ, **if we really know Him**? Do you really know him?