

## Colossians 2:6-12

To keep us in the context of the chapter, we need to remember that Paul has just warned the believers against false teachings. He reminds them that there is no longer a secret, the mystery of God is Christ himself. Since we have received Christ as our Lord and Savior, we ought not simply go about our own way, but instead walk in him. Although the Lord may lead us in different paths and directions, there are things that all of us must do.

**Be rooted.** To be rooted in Christ means two major things. First, he is the source we look to for nourishment and growth. It is common for people to turn to podcasts, inspiring speakers, or education in order to feel “fed,” but these should not be our primary source of life and joy. Being rooted in Christ means that we draw deeply from him—seeking him above all else for strength and nourishment. We become people who consume his word and speak back to him through prayer. Just as a plant cannot simply grab what it needs out of the air and must be rooted, we too must be committed to finding our life and meaning in him alone.

Second, being rooted makes us established and hard to move. For example, when we bought our house, it had been neglected for about two to three years, and the backyard had become overrun with 3–4 foot cottonwoods. In that short time, they had grown so deep-rooted that it was nearly impossible to pull them up. When I tried to pull them, they either stayed put or snapped off at ground level. They had taken root—not only being fed, but also becoming established and immovable. In the same way, we ought to be rooted in Christ, becoming firm and immovable in his truths. Just as the old hymn says “His oath, his covenant, his blood, protect me in the whelming flood, when all around my soul gives way, he this is my hope and stay”.

We want to communicate to students that being rooted in Christ is not something that leaves us neglected or hungry, but just the opposite. Choosing to walk away from ungodly practices or beliefs may sometimes feel like we’re missing out compared to others. But in reality, true growth and fulfillment only happen when we are being nourished by Christ even though it may at times feel difficult.

---

In verse 8, Paul warns us about the falsehood which are in the world that requires us to be rooted in order to withstand it. One danger he names is empty deceit and philosophy rooted in human traditions. This doesn’t mean that every tradition is bad. In Matthew 15:1–9 we see that the issue is not the physical act of keeping a tradition, but the belief that man-made traditions affect our standing before God. For example, celebrating Christmas or Easter is not wrong, but those celebrations do not make us more righteous or earn us any merit before God.

The problem arises when people add to the gospel or elevate human tradition to the same level—or even above—Scripture. One modern example is the Roman Catholic Church, which teaches that Church tradition stands alongside Scripture as an ongoing revelation from God. In this view, breaking from tradition is not merely disregarding human practice but is considered disobedience to God himself. We do not believe this. While traditions may be good and beneficial or in most cases neutral, unless they are rooted in Scripture they do not dictate our righteousness before God.

---

Another subject that often trips people up is **circumcision**. We need to address it briefly because of its importance in Jewish life and faith and the implications it has for Christianity. We don't need to go into the physical details or the procedure—those conversations can happen another time preferably with parents—but we do need to explain its symbolic role. Circumcision was the sign of the old covenant, but it pointed forward to something greater: the circumcision of the heart, which is given to all believers in Christ. Everyone now bears the sign of the promise that they are one of God's people and apart of the great nation of people that God is assembling through faith in the one he foretold to Abraham.

This also highlights the **elevation of women** in the new covenant. For much of history, women were treated as lesser than men, and at times even as property. In Israel, women did not bear the covenant sign themselves; this was something that we reserved for their fathers, brothers, husbands, etc. But in Christ, for the first time, women are given the same position as men in bearing the sign and seal of God's promise. The circumcision of the heart is given to all believers equally<sup>1</sup>. Women now, just as much as men, bear the promise. Though men and women may have different roles in the church, they are equal in worth, dignity, and standing before God.

---

<sup>1</sup> This parallels that fact that Paul also makes the claim in Romans 8:14 "All who are led by the Spirit of God are Sons of God" or in Galatians 3:26 "for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith". All people both male and female, slave and free, have the position and status of son before God. This means that they will have an equal inheritance as those who are men, just as they will equally bear the mark of the promise and covenant independently just as men have done in the past and currently in our present.