

## ***STAY ON TRACK***

You probably know someone who would say, “I used to be a Christian, but now I am not.”

Throughout the New Testament, the Biblical authors warn Christians about the potential of them abandoning Jesus. The world around you is constantly trying to pull you away from the faith into something else, and the Bible, on many occasions, warns: don’t let it happen to you.

### **GOD WANTS CHRISTIANS TO STAY ON TRACK.**

The question is: How do I stay on track? As I see it, from these verses, Paul gives us 3 keys to staying on track.

**Key #1** - Build your life upon Jesus. **2:6-7** (*walk in Him*)

The word walk has to do with our daily lifestyle. What does it look like to walk in him?

(Picture #1) Rooted, like a strong tree.

A strong tree has strong roots. A firm tree has deep roots. The roots continue to grow,. When a Christian walks in Christ his roots grow deeper and deeper, making him stronger and stronger.

The opposite of a strong rooted tree is a tumbleweed. A tumbleweed is a big plant above the surface, but it’s got a

really small root system. When it gets dry in the late summer and the winds pick up, that tumbleweed gets plucked out of the ground and goes wherever the wind takes it.

How does a tree grow strong? It feeds on the nutrition of the soil it's planted in. The water and the nutrition is in the soil. For a Christian, we are planted in Christ, and our water and nutrition to feed on is His Word- the Bible. That will be our safeguard for getting carried by the winds of the world.

(Picture #2) Built up, like a strong building.

This is an ongoing action - continually being built up. The picture transitions from a strong tree with deep roots, to a stout building that is constantly under construction and always making improvements.

According to Chapter 1 and verse 16, Jesus was the architectural engineer of the entire universe, long before he grew up in a carpenter's home. If He built and sustains all things every created, don't you think he can build your life pretty well?

(Picture #3) Established, like a dependable business.

To become established in the faith takes time, just like a business takes time to become well established.

What is the faith? It is the body of doctrine that we believe. It is the complete teaching of the Bible. It is Christianity. The Bible teaches the faith.

And when Paul says, *just as you were taught*, he's telling them the doctrine has not changed. The truth is still the truth. There is no need to swerve away from it.

(Picture #4) Overflowing with thanksgiving, like a flooded river.

Abounding means have more than enough - Overflowing - To have some left over. When a Christian walks in Jesus - walks with Jesus - build his life upon Jesus, as the years go on he or she becomes increasingly thankful. Like a flooded river, overflowing with water, a Christian become overflowing with thanksgiving.

**Key #2** - Watch out for the traps of the world. **2:8** (*See to it*)

See to it means watch out - beware - be on guard - open your eyes - pay attention. Don't let anyone rob you and steal you to become their slave. The Bible in very clear terms calls out the philosophy of the world, saying it's a trap.

(Explanation #1) Philosophy and empty deception is according to the tradition of men.

Philosophy is mankind trying to explain the universe using his own logic and reasoning. But there is also religious philosophy. What is that? It is man-made religion. It's the

religious ideas of men that makes sense according to man's reasoning and logic. What does it look like? You must earn your way to a good afterlife.

And you might ask: how do you not lump the Bible, the faith, Christianity into all that? Isn't Christianity just Philosophy? and isn't Jesus just another religious philosopher? No, and here's why: The Bible consistently runs contrary to mankind's logic and reasoning.

(Explanation #2) Philosophy and empty deception is according to the elementary principles of the world.

What the world views as so intellectual, deep thinking, and scholarly, God views as basic as the abc's. Man's philosophy doesn't impress God. 1st Corinthians 1 tells us that the wisdom of God and the wisdom of the world run contrary to one another. What God deems as wise is foolish to the world. What the world deems as wise is foolishness to God.

(Explanation #3) Philosophy and empty deception is not according to Christ.

This is how a Christian ought to judge what he hears: Does it agree with Christ? Does what I'm being told agree with Jesus? If it doesn't agree, we watch out that it does not trap us. We reject it. Even if it sounds good, logical, reasonable, and philosophical, we reject it. I know that sounds narrow minded, but Jesus Himself said the way to life is narrow.

**Key #3** - Remember who Jesus is & what you have in Him.  
**2:9-10** (*For in Him*)

(Reminder #1) Jesus is fully God in a human body.

David Thompson said, “the totality of God, including His power, attributes, qualities and essence completely and fully exist in bodily form, in the person of Jesus Christ.”

We keep in mind, Jesus has always been God. John told us that (John 1:1,14). Jesus has always been God, but when He became a man, that’s when the fullness of God existed in bodily form.\

If Jesus is fully God, why stress out about what other men have to say?

(Reminder #2) You are filled in Jesus.

If you are in Him by faith, then you have already been made full, because He is in you. You are complete. You are lacking nothing. He is fully God, and by faith in Him, you are fully saved. You have a full relationship with God through Jesus. You have all you need in Jesus. He’s the head of all rule and authority, so his Word stands above anyone else.

