



Colossians: *Christ the Builder*
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“Foundation Problems”
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Key Verses: Colossians 1:1-14

Key Thought: Within a dependent relationship with God, knowing is foundational for walking.

Points to Consider:

- We conclude our annual focus— Body Building— with Colossians: *Christ the Builder* because we must never forget who it is that truly does the building (cf. Matthew 16:18).
- One angle in which to view Colossians is that Paul focuses on knowing in 1:3-2:5 and walking in 2:6-4:6 (cf. Overview of Colossians). (Paul's term, “walk,” is a very Hebrew way of referring to how one lives, with an emphasis on one's ethics.) → Paul, in the report of his prayer for the Colossians, has condensed the main idea of the letter into a single statement. (See 1:9-11.)
- As we cooperate with Christ the Builder, let us avoid two “foundation problems” (i.e., problems related to knowing and walking):
 - i. Neglecting the Priority of the Foundation
 1. Whenever we dichotomize knowing and walking, it leads us to elevate walking and disparage knowing— which is self-sabotaging because doing so (esp. over time) destabilizes our walking.
 2. Knowing is **foundational** for walking (cf. 1:9-10). → Let us acknowledge the priority of knowing.
 - ii. Neglecting the Purpose of the Foundation
 1. Knowing is foundational for... **walking!**
 2. The purpose of Paul's prayer about their knowing is for their walking (cf. 1:9-10). → Let us resolve that our knowing be fulfilled in walking.
- Avoiding these two “foundation problems,” however, is futile if we presume that we are the builder. → Knowing and walking are ways that we relate with God (i.e., a “living prayer”)— in a manner of dependence on Him to build us.

Discussion Prompts:

- Why is it important to recognize that knowing is foundational for walking?
- What does it look like to approach knowing and walking as if you were the builder?
- Explore what it means for you to approach knowing and walking as a “living prayer.”
- Close with Paul's prayer (1:9-11), and feel free to make it your own.