

The Ways of my Walk– Col. 2:6,7

Intro:

1) Word picture – Hiking boots

- a. Have served me well since 2013
- b. If you've ever looked up any hiking magazine or trail guide you'll see sections devoted to hiking boots
 - i. Why - because they are a necessary equipment to navigating the trail well
- c. Hiking boot – not really flashy in design, but they work and they are essential

2) What does this have to do with the Bible?

- a. In the book of Colossians – Paul is addressing the Colossians believers with essential, practical, biblical truths on walking out their faith
- b. Why?
 - i. Faced with ungodly influences trying trip them up and pull them away from their walk with Jesus
 - ii. Faced with a lot of “spiritual paths” offered to them
- c. So Paul is reminding these believers of the fundamental truths of their faith
 - i. The essentials to walking well

3) In this section of Colossians – Paul is addressing the “Christian walk”

- a. V6 – “...so walk ye in him:”
- b. Already addressed their walk once – 1:10
- c. Evidently - Paul was concerned with their walk
 - i. Why?
 - ii. Because if they were to get on the wrong path – it would have severely hurt their relationship with Jesus

4) How many of you know that there are different paths set before us on a daily basis?

- a. Estimated that you make 20,000 decisions a day – Don Clifton
 - i. Some of those decisions can really effect the path that you are on
- b. As we look at Paul's words here to the Colossians – I want to equip you today to have a full and fulfilled walk with Jesus
 - i. Theme – Complete in Christ

5) Goal – give you some practical, essential, biblical truths that will help you navigate your path of life in a way that honors Jesus

- a. Give you the equipment needed to walk well in your Christian faith
- b. Part 1 – Col. 2:6-7

A Sure Grasp On Jesus – V6

1) Paul starts this section of the passage talking about the believer's faith

2) 1st thing we see – A Genuine Conversion

- a. Here's a basic truth – before you can live like a Christian, you have to actually be a Christian!
 - i. Basic biology and anatomy – run, walk, crawl, born
 - ii. Same with us spiritually
- b. Notice what Paul establishes before he instructs these believers to walk out their faith
 - i. “As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord...”
 1. In others words – these Christians were actually Christians
 - ii. We could say – they weren't actors, they were actual
 - iii. Listen to what Paul says about them – Col. 1:4,7-8
 1. They had faith and fruit
- c. This is a significant insight given the cultural and spiritual context of that day
 - i. False spirituality and teachers were abundant at this time
 1. The church here dealt with:
 - a. Jewish legalism – abiding by the Law for righteousness
 - b. Mystic Gnosticism – called “Colossian Heresy”

THE COLOSSIAN HERESY	Heretical Belief	Reference	Paul's Answer
Paul answered the various tenets of the Colossian heresy that threatened the church. This heresy was a mixed bag, containing elements from several different heresies, some of which contradicted each other.	What is spiritual is good; what is material is evil.	1:15–20	God created heaven and earth for his glory.
	One must follow ceremonies, rituals, and restrictions in order to be saved or perfected.	2:11, 16–23; 3:11	Such practices can only point toward truth but have no real power to save. It is only through the person and work of Christ that salvation is possible.
	One must deny the body and live in strict asceticism.	2:18–23	Asceticism—pious self-denial—is no help in conquering evil thoughts and desires; instead, it leads to pride.
	Angels must be worshiped.	2:18	Angels are not to be worshiped; Christ alone is worthy of worship.
	Christ could not be both human and divine.	1:15–20; 2:2–3	Christ is God in the flesh; he is the eternal one, head of the body, first in everything, supreme.
	One must obtain a certain secret knowledge in order to be saved or perfected—and this is not available to everyone.	2:2, 18	The mystery of God is Christ himself, and he has been revealed to all.
	One must adhere to human wisdom, traditions, and philosophies.	2:4, 8–10; 3:15–17	By themselves, these can be misleading and shallow because they have human origin; instead, we should remember what Christ taught and follow his words as our ultimate authority.
	It is best to combine aspects of several religions.	2:10	You are complete in Christ; he is all-sufficient.
	There is no reason to live a moral life.	3:1–11	Get rid of sin and evil because you have been chosen by God to live a new life as a representative of the Lord Jesus.

- ii. This is important to understand – the belief Paul was battling here wasn't militant atheism – it was "Jesus Plus" theology
 - 1. Paul is reminding them they have already received what was enough
- iii. What a challenge in our day – the modern church has adopted "Jesus plus" theology
 - 1. Jesus plus – self-help ideology
 - 2. Jesus plus – political identity
 - 3. Jesus plus – ritual and tradition
 - 4. Jesus plus – mysticism and experience
- d. Note the word Paul uses here in regards to their relationship with Jesus
 - i. Received – Grk. Paralambao
 - 1. Para – in/with/from
 - 2. Lambano – to take/to receive
 - 3. Meaning – to take in, to receive in – a word of reception
 - ii. Cultural insight –
 - 1. language of hospitality
 - a. Used to describe welcoming someone into your home
 - 2. Official language
 - a. Broader Greek sense – to receive an official message
 - b. To take custody of something important
 - c. Word carries the idea of accepting something as binding and authoritative
 - 3. Language of marriage covenant
 - a. Used in Matt. 1:20,24
 - b. Joseph "took unto him" Mary as wife
 - iii. Active tense – not just given, but must also be grasped
- e. Why is this important to know?
 - i. It's a serious reminder that before I progress in the faith, I must actually profess real faith
 - ii. Here's another way to say it - Before I grow, I must grasp

3) 2nd thing to see – A Growing Continuation

- a. Walk – present imperative – stressing an ongoing, continual command
 - i. IOW – a way of life
 - ii. Used figuratively in Jewish thought to represent one's entire pattern of life
- b. Lesson – who they received as Savior would impact every day after
 - i. Tells us – Christianity is not:
 - 1. Associative attendance
 - 2. Isolated decision
 - 3. Emotional reaction
- c. Statement – Jesus impacts the faith of your soul AND the fruit of your life

4) A Guarded Confidence

- a. What exactly did these believers receive?
 - i. V6 – Christ Jesus the Lord
- b. This is referred to as the full Messianic title for Jesus
 - i. Christ – refers to His messianic office, the fulfillment of OT promises
 - ii. Jesus – Refers to His humanity, incarnation, emphasis on Him as Savior
 - iii. Lord – Refers to His Divinity, title used of YahWeh in LXX
- c. In other words – these believers took in, by faith, what was freely given in, by, and through Jesus Christ – Salvation
 - i. The title Paul uses here is interesting – not just majestic, but purposeful
 - 1. Christ – focuses on God’s promise
 - 2. Jesus – focuses on God’s purpose and payment
 - 3. Lord – focuses on God’s position
- d. Let me share some sobering word with you – faith is only as good as it’s object
 - i. See – everyone has “faith” – everyone trusts something
 - ii. The question is not *if* you trust, but what exactly do you trust?

5) The first aspect of walking well with Jesus is to have a sure grasp of Jesus by faith

A Secure Grounding in Jesus – V7a

1) The second aspect of walking well with Jesus is to be securely grounded in Him – V7

- a. In V7 Paul uses a group of metaphors to emphasize what faith in Jesus lived out does
 - i. Agricultural, Architectural, Administrative
- b. Here Paul pictures the Christian as a plant with deep roots, a building with a strong foundation, and a river of overflowing thanks
- c. Note the progression
 - i. Inward – rooted
 - ii. Upward – built
 - iii. Outward - abounding

2) Agricultural Metaphor

- a. Paul pictures the Christian life as a plant that has deep roots allowing real growth and fruitfulness to take place
- b. Textual insight – rooted...in Him
 - i. Meaning – to cause to take root,
 - ii. Carries the idea of a plant that is healthy and strong because it has good roots
 - iii. Important to understand – Perfect Passive Participle
 1. Perfect – completed action which also has ongoing results
 - a. Lit. having been rooted and remaining rooted
 - b. IOW – this is NOT a reference to:
 - i. Temporary spirituality
 - ii. Shallow experience
 - iii. Emotional enthusiasm
 - c. This word speaks of permanence
 - d. Warren W. Wiersbe – “Once we are rooted by faith in Christ, there is no need to change soil.”
 2. Passive – done to you
 - a. The plant doesn’t root itself – it gets rooted
 - b. Idea – God roots you in Jesus
 - c. Implication – mature growth in the faith is understanding you are not self-rooted, you are rooted in Christ
- c. Paul is probably using this terminology to combat the ungodly influences these Colossians believers were facing
 - i. False teachers were tempting the believers to leave what they knew about Jesus and pursue a newer, more spiritual experience
 1. We face the same today
 - ii. So Paul encourages them to stay “rooted”
 - iii. Truth - Christians are not to be tumbleweeds

- d. This imagery would have resonated well with these believers seeing that agriculture was central to life in the Lycus Valley Region
 - i. These believers understood:
 1. Shallow roots die easily
 2. Deep roots survive droughts
 3. Healthy roots produce fruitfulness
- e. This terminology no doubt rests heavy on similar OT passages
 - i. Ps. 1:3 – Jerm. 17:7-8

3) Application

- a. Depth matters more than Display
 - i. “A shallow Christian may appear deep briefly, but storms in life expose the root system”
 - ii. Roots can be seen as a reference to the unseen aspects of our faith
 1. Private devotions, prayer, doctrinal grounding, unseen obedience
 - iii. The false teachers at Colossae would often brag about the “deeper” spiritual experiences they have
 1. Yet here Paul is encouraging steadfast faithfulness in the roots systems of our faith

A Steadfast Growth in Jesus – V7b

1) Next Paul shifts the imagery from agriculture to architecture

- a. "...and built up in Him.."

2) Textual Insight

a. Built up – Grk. Epoikodomeo – to build upon

- i. Epi – on/upon
 - 1. Oikodomeo – to build a house
 - 2. To build a house upon – house + foundation
- ii. Culturally – it is a reference to constructing a building on a foundation
- iii. Listen to how it's used in 1 Cor. 3:10,11
 - 1. That reference gives us insight into what grows a Christian
- b. When used figuratively – the term emphasizes being edified, emboldened, encouraged, highlighting spiritual progress
 - i. In other words – steadfastly growing

3) Fact – as a Christian you are to be steadfastly growing in your walk with Jesus

- a. Opposite of forward movement: stagnant
 - i. Def. – having no current or flow and often have an unpleasant smell as a consequence
 - 1. Due to growth of dangerous waterborne pathogens
 - ii. Def. – showing no activity, dull and sluggish

4) Paul is teaching these believers that part of being complete in Christ is a steadfast growth in Christ

- a. I wonder how many of you would say you're walk with Jesus is stagnant?

5) Q - How does one focus on being built up?

- a. Interestingly – the idea of being "built up" is more of a congregational term than an individual term
 - i. Listen to Eph. 2:19-22 – take into kitchen
 - ii. Peter puts it this way – 1 Pet. 2:5
- b. We could say that this phrase "built up" is a temple phrase
 - i. In the OT – tabernacle and temple
 - ii. In the NT – people of God, specifically with a corporate emphasis

6) The house of God was the place where God was to be rightly worshipped

- a. Sacrifices happened there
- b. Music was sung there
- c. God's Word was proclaimed there
- d. God's presence was there

- 7) So the imagery of being built up stresses the congregational aspect of our faith**
- a. Rooted – more individual and private
 - b. Built up – more congregational and public
 - c. Tells me – a person who tries to walk the Christian walk alone is going to struggle and stagnate

A Sure Guarantee in Jesus – V7c

- 1) The next metaphor language Paul uses is Administrative**
 - a. Agricultural, Architectural, Administrative

- 2) Textual insight**
 - a. Established in the faith
 - b. Meaning – to make firm, reliable, stabilized, to guarantee

- 3) Cultural insight**
 - a. Legal/administrative term
 - i. To give a guarantee, a legally secure transaction
 - ii. Reference to purchasing to transferring land
 1. Is someone disputes – the seller must offer, in court, the guarantee of ownership and purchase

- 4) A key aspect of walking with Jesus into maturity of faith is knowing the permanence to Whom you belong**
 - a. I've seen this personally – people get easily tripped up when they fail to understand the eternity and assurance of their faith
 - b. Rom. 8:38

Closing

- 1) In these verses Paul beings to spell out the basics of the Christian walk**
 - a. Surely grasping Jesus by faith
 - b. Securely grounded in Jesus through His Word
 - c. Steadfastly growing in Jesus together
 - d. Sure guarantee in Jesus

- 2) Notice what the outcome is – abounding therein with thanksgiving**
 - a. This phrase is often overlooked because it is overshadowed by the phrases that precede it
 - b. Q – What is the result of a rooted, built up, secure believer?
 - i. Abounding in thanks to God
 - ii. Abounding – to be over, to be more, to be above
 - c. IOW - a clear sign you are maturing in your walk with Jesus is not spiritual arrogance, its spiritual gratitude

- 3) How these truth impact your life?**
 - a. Do you have real faith placed on Jesus?
 - b. Are your planted deep or a easily uprooted?
 - c. Have you grown in your walk with Jesus?
 - d. Are you assured of your standing in Jesus?

- 4) How many have stopped to say thank you to Jesus?**
 - a. Gratitude is having an accurate assessment of your life