

A fulfilled walk with Jesus – Col. 2:6-10 (Part 2)

Intro:

- 1) Snow shoes**
 - a. Sometimes different terrain calls to different footwear

- 2) This is true of our lives as well**
 - a. We all go through different seasons of life and are faced with different challenges in life
 - i. Sometimes the path seems easy – and sometimes it seems impossible

- 3) The Colossian church was facing some unique terrain as they tried to walk with Jesus**
 - a. They had many different “spiritual” influences trying to pull them away from faith in Jesus
 - i. Judaizers – trying to add to Jesus
 - ii. Gnostics – trying to take away from Jesus
 - iii. Rome – trying to dethrone Jesus

- 4) The truths Paul writes in Colossians 2 are directed at helping these believers stay on the right path**
 - a. He was giving them specific instruction and insight to maintain a faithful and fulfilled walk with Jesus

- 5) Let’s pick up where we left off**
 - a. Previous lesson:
 - i. Sure grasp
 - ii. Secure grounding
 - iii. Steadfast growth

- 6) Read – Col. 2:7-10**

Soundly Growing – V7

- 1) In verse 7 there are two aspects of spiritual growth emphasized**
 - a. Built up – Architectural metaphor – congregational application
 - b. Established faith – Administrative metaphor – doctrinal application

- 2) Although we covered the metaphors mentioned in V7, I want to give more insight into the phrase “established in the faith”**
 - a. The word “established” is a unique word
 - b. Established – to confirm, to keep strong
 - i. Administrative and Legal term
 1. Referring to something firmly decided or verified
 2. Used as a “guarantee” in the court setting
 - ii. In Scripture it is used in a couple different ways
 1. Used in connection to being saved – 1 Pet. 5:10, 1 Thess. 3:13
 2. Carries the idea of something being confirmed – Rom. 15:8, Mark 16:20
 - c. The word is stated as a present participle – emphasizes a continuous action
 - i. “Constantly being established”
 - ii. “Being built up”
 - iii. Continuity is emphasized

- 3) Notice what these believers were called to be established in**
 - a. “The faith”
 - b. IOW - Paul is instructing these believers to continue to be established in the faith that they had been taught
 - c. Paul uses this word “faith” in a couple different ways
 - i. One way – indicates inner trust
 - ii. One way – indicates a summary of Christian doctrine
 1. Faith as in trust has an object
 2. Faith as in doctrine has content
 - d. Here Paul is addressing the “faith” as the doctrines which they have faithfully learned
 - e. What have here is an edification to the Christians to not only to grow steadfastly, but grow soundly as well
 - i. The growth is guardrailed as growth in from and in sound doctrine

- 4) Begs the question – why is Paul placing such an emphasis on being fixed and verified in the faith?**
 - a. Paul is probably using this phrase to combat the false teaching that tried shaking the Colossians believer’s faith
 - b. So what Paul is doing is – stressing the point to stay firm in what you’ve faithfully learned
 - i. Fix your mind on sound doctrine – don’t be led astray
 - c. “Paul is challenging them and cautioning them to grow deeper in what they know (and Whom they know) in order to prevent their being by false teachers with competing and conflicting doctrine that do not exalt Christ.” – Scott Pace

5) The opposite of this type of established faith is seen in the Galatian congregation

- a. They were not rooted, built up, established
- b. Galatians 1:6,7
- c. Removed – to change – from one place or position to another
 - i. In the same family as the word “repent”
 - ii. Used positively of Enoch in Heb. 11:5 – he was “translated”
- d. Because these believers were not fixed and established – they were able to be removed

6) Paul was encouraging sound growth to happen as they “walked” out their faith

Application – How do we stay established in the faith?

1) Discern error carefully

- a. A Christian who is not grounded doctrinally will eventually be swayed spiritually
- b. Paul knew of the surrounding persuasive voices:
 - i. Gnostics, legalist, false teachers, etc..
- c. The term established used in the legal setting carried the idea of something settled or verified
 - i. Essentially Paul is saying: Do not become spiritually movable
- d. Heed this as a warning – if you are not deeply rooted in biblical truth, you are vulnerable to cultural lies dressed up in spiritual language
 - i. Today’s versions of practical Gnosticism are everywhere:
 - 1. My truth - Social-media theology - Christianity based on feelings and not truth - Self-help replacing holiness
 - ii. A shallow Christian can be impressed by every new voice – but a grounded Christian tests the voices by the Scriptures
- e. If you are not established in truth, there’s great temptation to drift away into error

2) Deepen your walk continually

- a. Notice – Paul does say:
 - i. Find something new – chase spiritual trends, reinvent Christianity
 - ii. Rather he says – established in the faith AS YE HAVE BEEN TAUGHT
- b. Why?
 - i. False teachers in Paul’s day often offered something “new” something “more”
- c. Statement - The mature believer is one who continues steadfast in sound doctrine
- d. Listen to Paul’s prayer for the Ephesian believers – Eph. 3:17-19

3) Develop stability personally

- a. Being established in the faith requires personal participation, not passive attendance
- b. Established – middle voice
 - i. Middle voice emphasizes participation and personal involvement
 - ii. Middle voice communicates that the subject is participating or affected by the action of the verb
- c. IOW – this applies to you!
 - i. These believers were responsible for remaining grounded in what they had received
 - ii. Paul is not describing accidental stability, he is speaking of intentional steadfastness
- d. Sentence – you do not drift into doctrinal strength, you intentionally grow into it

Sincerely Grateful – V7

- 1) **In the closing words of Verse 7, Paul gives one last image to encourage these believers in their walk with Jesus**
 - a. V7c – “...abounding therein with thanksgiving.”
- 2) **Textual Insight**
 - a. Abounding – to be over or above
 - b. Root – exceeding or going beyond
 - c. Imagery is that of an overflowing river
- 3) **Notice what we are to be overflowing with – Thanksgiving**
 - a. Grk: Eucharista
 - i. Eu – well
 - ii. Charis – grace
 - iii. “To receive something as an expression of grace by someone and accept it as if one does not deserve it.” – Complete Word Study Bible
 - b. IOW - Thanksgiving is an attitude word
 - i. One expresses thanksgiving by acknowledging the grace they’ve been given
- 4) **This phrase indicates an internal gratitude which will be externally visible**
 - a. In other words – my gratefulness will be evidenced by my attitude and actions
- 5) **Here’s something interesting – the first 3 participles of V7 are in the passive form, yet this last participle is in the active form**
 - a. Passive – emphasizes Gods role
 - b. Active – emphasizes my response
 - c. Overflowing thanksgiving is to be my *response* to the work of God in Jesus and in my life
- 6) **Truth – a real fulfilled walk with Jesus will result in a overflow of gratefulness and humility**
 - a. Why? – Because I am constantly reminded of the need for grace and mercy
 - i. I wasn’t worthy to receive Jesus – Yet He offered Himself
 - ii. I was unstable in my walk – Yet He grounded me
 - iii. I was falling apart – yet He built me up
 - iv. I was tossed to and fro – yet He established me
 - b. A saint that gives thanks is one that is mindful of the grace of God in their life
 - c. This reminds me of the attitude of the Psalmist in Ps. 124
 - i. Notice the humble adoration – V8
- 7) **The book of Colossians is saturated with an emphasis on giving thanks**
 - a. 1:3,12; 2:7; 3:15,17
- 8) **Here’s what I want to point out – why is giving thanks such an imperative attitude in the believer’s life?**
 - a. Since giving thanks is predicated on the acknowledgment of God’s grace and mercy in my life, I am not tempted to search for something “more” or believe what I have in Jesus is inadequate
 - b. IOW – a heart full of thanks is a great defense against false teaching and false teachers
 - i. A thank-filled heart is a guarded heart
- 9) **Statement begs the question – Is your attitude of gratefulness a trickling stream or an overflowing river?**
 - a. Sincere gratitude to the Lord is a marker of maturity
 - b. It’s a fruit of being in God’s will – 1 Thess. 5:18 – Col. 3:15,16

Scripturally Guarded – V8-10**1) Let me summarize what Paul is saying here:**

- a. Turn from what turns you from Jesus

2) There are two different teachings presented in Vv8-10

- a. V8 – false teaching
- b. V9,10 – faithful teaching
- c. In essence Paul is saying – false teaching deceives you and denies Christ, whereas faithful teaching edifies you and exalts Christ

3) So serious is this that Paul gives a strong warning in V8

- a. Beware – Watch out!
 - i. Lit. To see with your eyes
 - ii. Fig. To take heed – be on the lookout
 - iii. Not just a general caution – but an alert about a real and imminent danger
 - iv. Present imperative – continual command
- b. Spoil you – carry you off as spoil, to take you captive
 - i. “This is the term for robbery. It is referring to false teachers who are successful in getting people to believe lies and robbing them of truth, salvation, and blessings.” – J. MacArthur
 - ii. False teaching does not merely “misinform” you; it spiritually kidnaps you
 - iii. The imagery of the word follows as an antonym of “established” in V7

4) Truth – it’s easy to be taken captive if you’re ignorant of God’s Word

- a. Notice what Paul says can take them captive
 - i. Philosophy and vain deceit
 - 1. Shallow and hollow teachings
 - 2. Wisdom that is false
 - 3. Vain – empty in quality
 - 4. Opposite of V7
 - 5. “The deceptive teaching of this world distorts its victim’s entire perspective: “Philosophy” – W.W. Wiersbe
 - ii. Traditions of men
 - 1. Tradition – a handing down
 - 2. Legalism
 - 3. Mark 7:8
 - iii. Rudiments of this world
 - 1. Worldly principles and teachings
 - 2. Interesting – this phrase is used of elementary teachings, foundational components, or basic principles
 - a. Signifies – any first things from which others in a series take their rise – ex. Alphabet
 - b. Fascinating because the false teaching of the day boasted about new, deeper, more in-depth truths – yet Paul labels them shallow
 - 3. Could also be a reference to the elementary structures of the cosmos – earth, wind, fire, sun, moon, stars
 - a. Combating the worship of those things
- b. Notice - All this is contrasted with Christ

5) The false teachers were seeking to add to Jesus or take away from Jesus

- a. Either way – they taught that Jesus wasn't really enough
- b. So in V 9,10 Paul resounds the sufficiency of Christ
 - i. Don't be captive by false teaching, be captivated by Christ

6) In verse 9, 10 Paul affirmed who Jesus is and who believers are in Him

- a. Jesus – Completely God, totally sufficient
 - i. A statement absolutely aimed against the false philosophy of the day - Gnosticism
- b. You – Complete in Him
 - i. Complete – to fill, be fulfilled
 - 1. Word used often in the fulfillment of OT Scriptures – Matt. 2:15
 - a. filled like a net with fish – Mat. 13:48
 - b. fill up a house with perfume – John 12:3
 - c. A valley filled up – Luke 3:5
 - d. To supply all your need – Phil. 4:19
 - 2. Stated in the perfect tense indicating that this is a permanent completion
 - a. If you have Jesus, you need no other thing
- c. Note the contrast made
 - i. V8 – false teaching is vain (empty)
 - ii. V9,10 – Jesus truly fills you
- d. Why is V9, 10 so important?
 - i. Emphasizes the incarnation which highlights real, substitutionary atonement
 - 1. Judaizers denied Jesus' deity – making Him a less-than-holy sacrifice, not eternal, and therefore not sufficient
 - 2. Gnostics denied Jesus' humanity – making Him less than what was needed

7) The encouragement of these verses is to be scripturally guarded in your walk with Jesus

Closing

1) Here's where these verses really bring us – is Jesus prominent in your life or preeminent in your life?

- a. Prominent – to stand out, important
- b. Preeminent – (1:18) to be supreme, to have first place, stresses superiority and priority
 - i. Root – protos – first, chief
- c. Beware of the things that take away from Jesus being number 1 in your life

