

“Walking in Christ”

Text: Colossians 2:1-10

Key Verse: V. 6

Colossians 2:6 (KJV)

‘As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:

Introduction:

I recall vividly the time God dealt with me about this verse and impressed me to study it further.

It was in the late 90’s and I was in a motel room in Chiplee, FL (with a young man who travelled with me), in a camp meeting.

This chapter/passage was in my “daily reading” that morning as I arose to do my devotions with the Lord.

It so impressed me as, being out on the road, you hear so many different ideas about salvation, dedication, if you really are saved or not, etc.

Legalism produces that kind of atmosphere!

God so plainly spoke to me about what it means to be “saved” and to “walk in Christ” and this sermon was born out of that study.

[Illus] O.T. “Noah and Enoch” “*walked with God!*” (No Bible yet, just God!

- **Would YOU** like to have that testimony?
- **Can** we as N.T. believers do that? How?

- **Have** you been saved? If “yes,” then the answer is clearly found here in our text!

First, let me give you some textual background information:

Background Observation:

“Christ's Sufficiency Against the Perils of Philosophy, Legalism, Mysticism, and Asceticism (2:1-23)” -*Believer's Bible Com.*”

2:1 This verse is closely linked with the last two verses of chapter **1**.

There the Apostle Paul had been describing his *strivings*, by teaching and preaching, to *present* every believer mature in Christ.

Here his strivings are of a different nature.

Now they are spoken of as **great conflict** in prayer.

And here this **great conflict** is on behalf of those he had never met.

From the first day he had heard of the Colossians, he had prayed for them as well as for **those in** the neighboring city of **Laodicea**, and for other Christians whom he had not as yet met.

Verse 1 is a comfort to those who are never privileged to engage in *public* ministry. It teaches that we need not be limited by what we can do in the presence of people.

We can serve the Lord in the privacy of our rooms on our knees.

If we do serve publicly, our effectiveness depends largely on our private devotions before God.

2:2 The exact content of Paul's prayer is given in this verse.

The first part of the prayer is **that their hearts may be encouraged**.

The Colossians were in danger of the teachings of the Gnostics.

Therefore, **encouraged** here means confirmed or strengthened.

2:3 In Christ are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

The Gnostics, of course, boasted of an understanding far surpassing anything found within the pages of divine revelation.

Their wisdom was something in addition to what was found in Christ or Christianity.

But here Paul is saying that **all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge** are hidden in Christ, the Head.

Therefore, there is no need for believers to go beyond what is written in the Scriptures.

The treasures in Christ are hidden from unbelief; and even the believer needs to know Christ intimately to enter them.

2:5 This verse shows how intimately aware the Apostle Paul was of the problems and perils facing the Colossians.

He pictures himself as a military officer looking over the assembled troops as they stand ready for inspection.

The two words **order**, and **steadfastness** are military terms.

The **first** describes the orderly array of a company of soldiers, whereas the **second** pictures the solid flank which is presented by them.

Paul rejoices as he sees (**in spirit** though not in body) how the Colossians were standing true to the word of God.

2:6 Now he encourages them to go on in the same way in which they had originally begun, that is, by faith.

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him.

The emphasis here seems to be on the word **Lord**.

In other words, they had acknowledged that in Him there was complete sufficiency.

He was enough, not only for salvation, but for the whole of their Christian life.

Now Paul urges the saints to go on acknowledging the lordship of Christ.

They should not stray from Him by accepting the teachings of men, however convincing they may sound.

The word **walk** is one that is often used of the Christian life. It speaks of action and progress.

You cannot **walk** and remain in the same place.

So it is in the Christian life; we are either going forward or backward.

2:7 Paul first uses an expression from agriculture, then one from architecture.

The expression **rooted** refers to what took place at the time of our conversion.

It is as if the Lord Jesus Christ is the soil and we find our roots in Him, drawing all our nourishment from Him.

This emphasizes, too, the importance of having our roots deep, so that when opposing winds blow, we will not be moved ([Matt. 13:5](#), [20](#), [21](#)).

Matthew 13:5 (KJV)

⁵ Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth:

Matthew 13:20-21 (KJV)

²⁰ But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it;

²¹ Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.

--Believer's Bible Commentary: A Thorough, Yet Easy-to-Read Bible Commentary That Turns Complicated Theology Into Practical Understanding.

Please allow me to make 3 observations this morning:

First, let me **illustrate** the importance of “as/so” in our text (CF. [Matt. 8:13](#))!!! Centurion and sick servant!

So, for the crux of this sermon let us consider “how” we were “saved” [received] Christ! This is what my Father showed me in that little motel room in FL.

When I received Christ...there was...

I. **The Presence of Faith!**

Ephesians 2:8-9 (KJV)

⁸ For by grace are ye saved through **faith**; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God:

⁹ Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Hebrews 11:6 (KJV)

⁶ But without **faith** *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Hebrews 11:29-30 (KJV)

²⁹ By **faith** they passed through the Red sea as by dry *land*: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned.

³⁰ By **faith** the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days.

John 3:16 (KJV)

¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever **believeth** in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

2 Corinthians 5:7 (KJV)

⁷ (For we walk by **faith**, not by sight:)

When I received Christ...there was...

II. **The Preaching of the Word!**

Romans 10:17 (KJV)

¹⁷ So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the **word** of God.

John 3:5 (KJV)

⁵ Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be

born of **water** and *of* the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

Titus 3:5 (KJV)

⁵ Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

James 1:18-21 (KJV)

¹⁸ Of his own will begat he us with the **word** of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

¹⁹ Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to **hear**, slow to speak, slow to wrath:

²⁰ For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.

²¹ Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted **word**, which is able to save your souls.

Ephesians 5:25-27 (KJV)

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

²⁶ That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the **washing of water** by the **word**,

²⁷ That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

2 John 1:6 (KJV)

⁶ And this is love, that we walk after his **commandments**. This is the commandment, That, as ye have **heard** from the beginning, ye should **walk** in it.

The Bible clearly teaches us in the NT that we should “*walk*” ...

[**Illus**] In “light,” “the Spirit,” “Love,” “Circumspectly,” “by Faith,” etc!

When I received Christ...there was...

III. **The Power of The Holy Spirit!**

John 3:5 (KJV)

⁵ Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of **water** and *of* the **Spirit**, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

John 6:44 (KJV)

⁴⁴ No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me **draw** him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Ephesians 1:10-14 (KJV)

¹⁰ That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; *even* in him:

¹¹ In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

¹² That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

¹³ In whom ye also **trusted**, after that ye **heard** the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye **believed**, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

¹⁴ Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

God desires that you be “full” of His Holy Spirit:

Ephesians 5:18 (KJV)

¹⁸ And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be **filled** with the **Spirit**;

Closing:

I have two questions for you this morning:

1. Are you SAVED?
2. Are you WALKING in Him? (“As/so”)

Invitation Hymn: “*I Surrender All*”

*Prayerfully written, prepared, and preached by me, January 1999 TBC-Wed

preached again revival, Faith Baptist Crossville, TN-3/21/99

preached again revival, Bible Baptist Rossville, GA am-3/30/99

preached again revival, Fellowship Baptist Benton, TN-6/9/99

preached again, CBC Resaca, GA-9/2/01 (S. Barker saved)

preached again revival, Grace Baptist Cleveland, TN-2/3/04

preached again revival, Harmony Baptist Chattanooga, TN-10/11/04

preached again, OBC Dalton, GA-10/3/05-pastorate

preached again revival, 11th Ave Baptist Dalton, GA-4/20/08

preached again (1 January 2023) am-WHBC-pastorate