

Rooted in Christ

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Colossians 2:4-7 (NLT) I am telling you this so no one will deceive you with well-crafted arguments. ⁵ For though I am far away from you, my heart is with you. And I rejoice that you are living as you should and that your faith in Christ is strong. ⁶ And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. ⁷ Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.

(J.B. Phillips New Testament) I write this to prevent you from being led astray by someone or other's attractive arguments. For though I am a long way away from you in body, in spirit I am by your side, watching like a proud father the solid steadfastness of your faith in Christ. Just as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so go on living in him—in simple faith. Grow out of him as a plant grows out of the soil it is planted in, becoming more and more sure of the faith as you were taught it, and your lives will overflow with joy and thankfulness.

Being rooted in Jesus is not a suggestion or simply a good idea; it is necessary. Not only because the bible tells us to but because it's the only way that we will ever truly live a life that that brings honor to God.

To be rooted is “to be unwavering, fixed, or firmly established.” To be rooted in Christ is to be firmly established in the truth of who He is that nothing can pull us away from Him.

Just as a tree cannot stand without its roots firmly planted in the ground; we cannot stand without our faith being deeply rooted in Christ.

So many people drift away from the faith because their spiritual roots are shallow.

As a tree strikes its roots deep in the earth, so our faith should strike deep into the doctrine concerning Jesus. You and I need to make sure that we are growing in the knowledge of who Jesus really is.

The believers in Colossae were being threatened with heresy concerning Jesus. One from the philosophies of Greeks and the other from Jewish legalism.

The Greeks loved knowledge and prided themselves in their complex philosophical systems. They belittled the simplicity of the gospel. They taught that deeper spiritual knowledge was the path to salvation. They believed they could become gods themselves by obtaining greater spiritual knowledge and by separating from the physical world, which they viewed as evil.

To them Jesus alone was not sufficient. Salvation involved Jesus plus knowledge.

To the Judaizers, Jesus wasn't sufficient for salvation, circumcision and keeping the festival were necessary for salvation.

This is why Paul wrote...

Colossians 2:11-13 (NLT) When you came to Christ, you were “circumcised,” but not by a physical procedure. Christ performed a spiritual circumcision the cutting away of your sinful nature. ¹² For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead. ¹³ You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. ¹⁴ He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross.

Colossians 2:16-17 (NLT) So don't let anyone condemn you for what you eat or drink, or for not celebrating certain holy days or new moon ceremonies or Sabbaths. ¹⁷ For these rules are only shadows of the reality yet to come. And Christ himself is that reality.

Back to our opening passage:

Colossians 2:6-7 (NKJV) And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. ⁷ Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.

Who is this Jesus in whom we, like the Colossian's, have placed our faith? Is he enough for salvation? What is the relationship between Him and all the other powers around us? How powerful and how effective is our Lord? How should our relationship with him affect our daily lives?

In chapter one Paul gives a beautiful description of who Jesus is. You won't find in the bible any other passage with a list like this of so many characteristics of Christ and His deity.

Colossians 1:15-20 (NLT) Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, ¹⁶ for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together. ¹⁸ Christ is also the head of the church, which is his body. He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead. So he is first in everything. ¹⁹ For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ, ²⁰ and through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross.

Paul wants the believers to know that the one who gave his life for them wasn't just a human being who came into existence when he was born from Mary and raised as a carpenter's son in Nazareth.

He wasn't a deliver like the other self-proclaimed deliverers who showed up on the scene and were martyred for their cause and ceased from existence. Jesus is alive and is the exact living image of the invisible God.

The term image is not intended to indicate as a lifeless copy, like an image on a photograph. In this context it indicates the power and manifestation of the true being of God.

(AMP) He is the exact living image [the essential manifestation] of the unseen God [the visible representation of the invisible]

Hebrews 1:3 (NLT) The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God, and he sustains everything by the mighty power of his command. When he had cleansed us from our sins, he sat down in the place of honor at the right hand of the majestic God in heaven.

Jesus is the creator! The One who existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together.

Jesus is the head of the church, which is His body.

This is who saved us and worked the plan of salvation for us. What he did was sufficient to bring us into a right relationship with God the Father.

Jesus was sufficient to save us and give us the power to live a life that is pleasing to God.

Colossians 1:21-22 (NLT) This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions. ²² Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault.

Continue to be believe and stand firm

Colossians 1:23 (NLT) But you must continue to believe this truth and stand firmly in it. Don't drift away from the assurance you received when you heard the Good News. The Good News has been preached all over the world, and I, Paul, have been appointed as God's servant to proclaim it.

Colossians 2:8 (NLT) Don't let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ.

Christ is sufficient! There is nothing else in addition to Jesus that we need for salvation, life, satisfaction or fullness. Having the Lord Jesus Christ is to have everything needed in spiritual life for time and eternity. To have Him is to have everything, not to have Him is to have absolutely nothing at all.