

The Book of Colossians

Lesson 6: Rooted and Built Up in Christ -- Colossians 2:6-10

Picture two houses in the same neighborhood when the storm comes. From the street they look about the same, same paint, same porch, same tidy yard. But one was built on rock with a deep foundation, and the other was set on sandy soil because it was quicker and cheaper. For years it does not matter at all. Then one night the rain falls, the rivers rise, and the winds beat against both houses. And suddenly the only thing that matters is what is underneath. Jesus told a story just like that, and Paul is making the same point here. The Christian life is not finally about how things look on the surface. It is about what you are rooted in.

Paul has just warned the Colossians about smooth-talking teachers with impressive ideas. Now he tells them how to stand: as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him. There is the whole secret in a sentence. You did not begin the Christian life one way and then graduate to something else. You received Christ as Lord, and you keep on walking in that same Christ. The beginning and the journey are made of the same thing. Jesus is not the doorway you pass through on the way to deeper secrets. He is the road, the whole way home.

Then Paul stacks up images to show what a settled life in Christ looks like. Rooted, like a tree sending its roots down deep into rich soil. Built up, like a house rising course by course on a solid foundation. Established in the faith, firm and unshakable. And through it all, abounding in thanksgiving, because a grateful heart is a guarded heart. This is not a frantic, anxious faith always hunting for the next experience. It is a deep, glad, well-watered life that can stand when the storm comes.

And why is Christ enough to build a whole life on? Because, Paul says, in Him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in Him. Read that again slowly. All of God lives in Jesus, and everything you need, you already have in Him. You are not a half-finished believer waiting for some missing piece. You are complete in Christ, who is the head over every power that exists. Read these five verses and let them settle you. The question is not whether your life looks impressive. The question is what your roots are wrapped around.

Group Discussion: Paul says, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him (v. 6). Why is it so common for believers to treat Jesus as the entry point to the Christian life but then look elsewhere for growth and depth, and what goes wrong when we do that?

Personal Reflection: Paul calls believers to be rooted, built up, and established, with roots sunk deep into Christ. When you picture your own spiritual life, do you see deep roots or shallow ones? What is one thing that would help your roots go deeper this season?

Read Colossians 2:6-10

Study Questions

1. Paul writes, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him (v. 6). What does it mean that the Colossians received Christ as Lord, and why does Paul insist that the way we walk with Christ should match the way we first received Him?
2. Paul assumes that how we begin with Christ should shape how we continue. Does your daily walk actually match the Lord you received, or is there a gap between the Jesus you confessed and the Jesus you are following day to day? Where is that gap widest right now?
3. Paul uses three images in verse 7: rooted (like a tree), built up (like a building), and established in the faith. What does each picture add to our understanding of healthy Christian growth, and why do both deep roots and a solid structure matter?
4. A tree with shallow roots looks fine until the dry season comes. Be honest about where your own roots are shallow. What practice (in the word, in prayer, in worship, in fellowship) has thinned out in your life, and how might its absence leave you vulnerable when hard times come?
5. Paul warns, see to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition and the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ (v. 8). What is the single test Paul gives for evaluating any teaching, and why is human tradition, however old or respected, never a safe substitute for the standard of Christ?
6. Paul says false ideas can take us captive. What philosophy, tradition, or way of thinking from the surrounding culture has quietly taken some captive ground in your own mind, shaping you more than Christ does? How would you even notice it?
7. Paul tells the Colossians, you have been filled in Him (v. 10). What does it mean that believers are already filled, already complete, in Christ, and how does that truth confront both the false teachers' offer of something more and our own nagging sense that we are missing something?
8. Many believers live with a low hum of not enough, always feeling they are missing some piece that would finally make them whole. If you really believed you were already complete in Christ, lacking nothing essential, what striving or searching could you finally lay down?
9. Paul grounds everything in this: in Christ the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and He is the head of all rule and authority (vv. 9–10). What is Paul claiming about who Jesus is, and how does the truth that all of God dwells in Christ, and that Christ is over every power, make Him completely sufficient for everything we face?
10. Look back across these verses. Paul calls us to keep walking in the Christ we received, to sink deep roots, to refuse every counterfeit, and to rest in our completeness in Him. Name one specific way you sense Jesus forming you through this passage. What is the single truth from Colossians 2:6–10 that you most need to carry into this coming week?

Now or Later

Reflect on these passages: Ephesians 3:14–19, being rooted and grounded in love and filled with the fullness of God; Jeremiah 17:7–8, the one who trusts the Lord like a tree planted by water; 1 Corinthians 3:10–11, no foundation other than Jesus Christ; Matthew 7:24–27, the house built on the rock; 2 Peter 1:3, His divine power has granted us all things for life and godliness.