

10-30-22

Colossians 2:6-10.

No one is perfect. That includes Christians. You have and will blow it. You have and will be sinful. In my experience the longer we are born-again the more surprised we are at our own sinfulness. Or how we try to cover it up or deny it.

The Christian journey is all about growth, growth can and does happen when we fall. The problem is that we don't like to be confronted by our sinfulness. We are ok when the preacher preaches hard on other people's sin, but when it comes to our own, we want him to move along.

The attitude of complacency has gripped many churches in America. There is an attitude of complacency, indifference (apathy), lethargic, and lukewarm regarding the gospel. This is happening across America.

When I spoke to the Herricks about Ireland, there is such excitement about God's hand working in the lives of their people. And though it is a smaller congregation compared to many stateside churches, they are motivated for God.

The Osborne's in Africa, I cannot even talk with Rick without getting fired up. When he explains the passion and heart for the things of God he witnesses daily.

Since Covid happened the numbers of physical attenders have dropped. What are any of us doing about it? Is God telling us something?

Where are you along your spiritual journey? Are you passionate for Jesus? When you rub elbows with unbelievers are you pondering, praying for ways to encourage them? Praying for the ample time to present the gospel? Inviting them to a church service or life group? Asking God to show you where you can serve them or be a help to them.

Let's be honest, most days we are just trying to survive the day. We got enough of our own problems; we can't worry about others.

God doesn't just want us to survive he wants us to thrive! God doesn't want to be prominent; he wants to be preeminent. God wants to be over everything, including our jobs, hobbies, vacations, churches, finances, and our families. God desires and demands to be first. He wants to be priority number one!

In **Colossians 2:6-7**, Paul mixes several metaphors to describe the process of spiritual growth, what a Christians journey is to be like: **Read verses 6-7.**

On the faith side, the Colossians had received Christ Jesus as Lord and had been taught the faith. On the practice side, they needed to continue to live in Him and be built up in Him, becoming strengthened in their faith and overflowing with thankfulness.

Paul uses word pictures of spiritual progress.

1. Walker.

- **Verse 6, "As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him..."**

- Paul is reminding the readers that since they had a life changing encounter with Jesus, they are to walk in His ways, by faith and by His power.
- The verb indicates a continuous action - we are to continue to live in Him. The past event of receiving Christ should be a present reality in our lives.
- Our conduct must be consistent with His lordship. Our worship should affect our walk and our practice must conform to our principles.
- The Colossians had not merely received the doctrines of Christ; they had received Christ Himself.
- Jesus was his human name given at His birth and means Savior. Lord indicates that He is supreme and sovereign. He has no rivals, and we must bow before His preeminence.
- If we are believers and followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, we must be walking by faith and by His power.
- Some of us are slow walkers, some of us are medium speed walkers and there are some that are power walkers.

2. Tree.

- **"...rooted..."**
- Just as a tree is "rooted," we are to be grounded in the soil of God's Word. The tense of the Greek word means, "once and for all having been rooted."
- Those who have received Christ are rooted in Him. A tree puts down deep roots to find nutrition and to provide stability. Likewise, we must go deep with Christ to find the fuel we need to flourish, and to withstand the storms of life.

2 Peter 1:3, His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, ESV

- Just as a tree cannot thrive without any roots, so too, we cannot grow if we have not been grounded in "His glory and goodness."

3. Building.

- **"...Built up in Him..."**
- Paul next moves to a construction image to show that as our foundation is built on Christ, we must continue to add on so that we're being built up in him.
- To be strong, we must build with solid materials. Again, the tense of the verb indicates that the building keeps on going. The Christian life is not meant to be a one or two-story house, but rather a skyscraper that just keeps going up!
- Jesus talks about foundation in **Matthew 7:24-27**. Christ needs to be the cornerstone rock that the rest of our spiritual life is built upon.

4. Student.

- **"...established in the faith as you have been taught..."**
- We're to be students in God's graduate school so that our faith can be strengthened or established.

- As students, we must be taught the Word of God to grow in our faith. That's why you hear us talk so much about the importance of every believer plugging into a life groups, Sunday School, Sunday evenings, Youth Group and Super book.
- We don't want to just be a church that has life groups; we are a church that is made up of life groups, AM/PM service and Sunday School. Since a disciple must always be learning, make sure you are putting yourself in an environment where you can study and be strengthened on a regular basis.

5. River.

- **"...abounding in it with thanksgiving."**
- As we receive instruction in biblical truth it should produce inner joy. The more we understand grace, the more gratitude we will have.
- Kent Hughes writes, "A thankless spirit betrays a life which is no longer focusing on the greatness of Christ."
- If you don't feel very thankful today, it's probably because you've taken your eyes off Jesus and put them on your problems.
- We should be overflowing bursting river of thankfulness.
- I would encourage you to sign up and come out to our Friendsgiving fellowship dinner November 13th. As well as our talent show on November 27th @ 6pm. We will have opportunities to share what we are thankful for.

Live It Out

These two verses challenge us to...

Grow downward by being "rooted"

Grow upward by being "built up"

Grow inward so that we can be "established in the faith" (strengthened)

Grow outward as we "abounding with thankfulness" (overflowing)

Be On Guard (verse 8)

The false teachers used seductive tactics, so the believers had to "see to it" that they didn't let down their guard and be captured by philosophy that was contrary to Christ.

1. Man's philosophy will **"cheat you"** will leave you broke, lost and hopeless.
2. Man's philosophy will leave you **"empty"** Many of the philosophies we hear of today when compared with the reality of human existence are far off the mark because they are empty.
3. Man's philosophy is **"deceit"** deceptive. It may sound good, but it is designed to lead people astray.
4. Man's philosophy will leave you empty and full of lies because it depends on human tradition, **"...according to the tradition of men..."** These philosophies arise out of the thinking of men, find

a foothold in society, and then are passed along from generation to generation to appear popular and widely supported. Hardly anyone dares question them because it seems like everybody believes them. One obvious example today is the theory of evolution, CRT, gender dysphoria.

5. Man's philosophy depends on "**...basic principles of the world...**" These basic principles refer to the elementary stages of religious idolatry, or even the worship of fallen angels. No man-made religion can lead to truth, for truth can be found only in Christ. As something empty, philosophy cannot fill anyone except with more emptiness.

Man's philosophy is based on the principles of the world and not "**...according to Christ.**"

Read verses 9-10. Colossian 1:25 says that we have received the Word of God in its fullness and **Colossian 2:2** reminds us that because we know Christ, we have the full riches of complete understanding.

If we put these verses together, we can conclude by saying that a grounded, growing, and grateful believer will not be led astray.

You don't have to worry about being spiritually kidnapped if you are walking in Him, a tree "**rooted**", a building "**built up in Him**", a student "**established in the faith, as you have been taught**", and an overflowing river of thankfulness "**abounding in it with thanksgiving**".

Imagine that you were arrested for being a Christian and the authorities brought charges against you. Would they find enough evidence to convict you?

Would you surrender today?

Become born-again?

Stop trusting in the philosophies/traditions of man and start trusting in the wisdom found in God's Word through Christ.