



## Walking the Walk!

## Colossians 2:6-7

TO: LEGISLATORS, STAFF & 3<sup>RD</sup> HOUSE

FROM: DAN MADISON

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*The importance of Christ in men's religious thinking is widely acknowledged. Even groups that do not call themselves Christian often regard Jesus Christ as one of the foremost of the world's spiritual leaders. His ethical precepts, His remarkable life, and the impact that His brief time on earth has made upon history are generally admired<sup>1</sup>.*

*The problem comes, however, with the precise claims that the Bible makes about Christ. Rather than being set forth as divine in nature and attributes, the false teachers in Colossae, like the false teachers of our own day, would not deny the importance of Jesus Christ. They would simply dethrone Him, giving Him prominence but not preeminence.*

*That was the issue in the Colossian Church; a problem not dissimilar to those that face us today. The false teachers wanted to introduce some "new truths" for Christian maturity; ideas that discounted the deity of Christ. But Paul denounced them forcibly and soundly. "You started with faith and you must continue with faith. This is the only way to make spiritual progress."<sup>2</sup>*

### I. LIFE UNDER A NEW DIRECTION (2:6)

<sup>NKJ</sup> *Colossians 2:6* As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,

*The Christian walk: "...refer(s) to the practical daily life of a believer. If you wanted to use a contemporary synonym for walk, you could use the word life-style."<sup>3</sup>*

Paul earlier had prayed that the Colossians might have a "worthy walk." (1:10-12) He now issues a clear command "to walk in Christ." Here he stresses the daily walk of spiritual development. We are going to take time today to see what this "daily walk" of spiritual development looks like.

- First, they were to **walk in faith**. ("as you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord")

They had received Christ by faith; therefore they should walk by faith (Rom. 1:17). They had received instruction from Epaphras and others who taught them. They received a person, not a philosophy! They had a relationship with Christ!

- Second, they were to walk in Christ ("in Him"). As fish swim in water, so believers must walk in Christ. He must be our spiritual environment. We can do nothing apart from Christ (John 15:5) "Keep on walking in Him" is a good way to understand the tenses and verbs used here. Our progressive conduct (life-style) should be reflected in the lives that we live.

Walking in Christ means living in union with Him. It means to maintain a lifestyle patterned after His. "The one who says he abides in Him," the apostle John writes, "ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked" (1 John 2:6)<sup>4</sup>

### II. LIFE WITH A NEW DISTINCTION (2:7)

<sup>NKJ</sup> *Colossians 2:7* rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.

- Believers were to be "rooted." This is an agricultural word. "Once and for all having been rooted" is the idea. Christians are not to be tumbleweeds, that have no roots and are blown about by "every wind of doctrine" (Eph 4:14). Nor are they to be 'transplants' that are repeatedly moved from soil to soil. Once we are rooted by faith in Christ, there is no need to change the soil!<sup>5</sup>
- Christ's followers should be "built up in Him." When we receive Christ we are put on the foundation of Christ. This is an architectural

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term that stresses the continuing activity that is expected. The word suggests the process of building in successive layers, and reminds us that the Christian life is not a swift accomplishment but a lifelong process. The believer is dependent upon God to make this possible.

- Believers are to be “*established in the faith.*” It is not enough to place brick upon brick in a wall; such bricks must be properly anchored and cemented to each other to provide strength and stability. It is the Word of God that builds and strengthens the Christian. False teachers were undermining that doctrine. Paul calls us to a growing conviction in the truth we have received. (Jude 1:3)
- Christians are to have a thankful walk.<sup>6</sup> (“*abounding in it with all thanksgiving*”) The word “abounding” suggests a picture of a river overflowing its banks.
  - a. Our first experience in the Lord is that of drinking the water of life by faith, and He puts within us an artesian well of living water (John 4:10-14)
  - b. But that artesian well should become a “river of living water” (John 7:37-39) that grows deeper and deeper.

Paul gives pictures of growth for the believer. Consider:

*The Tree—rooted (v7a)*

*The building—built up (v7b)*

*The school—established in the faith (7c)*

*The river—abounding in thanksgiving (7d)*

By reviewing these pictures of spiritual progress, we see how the growing Christian can easily defeat the enemy and not be led astray. If our spiritual roots are deep in Christ, we will not want any other soil. If Christ is our sure foundation, we have no need to move. If we are studying and growing in the Word we will not easily be enticed by false doctrine. And if our hearts are overflowing with thanksgiving, we will not even consider turning from the fullness we have in Christ. A grounded, growing, grateful believer will not be led astray.<sup>8</sup>

### *The Spiritual Walk of the Believer*

Walk in newness of life (Romans 6:4)

Do not walk according to the flesh (Rom. 8:4)

Walk by faith, not by sight (2 Cor. 5:7)

Walk by the Spirit (Gal 5:16)

Walk no longer as the Gentiles (Eph. 4:17)

Walk in Love (Eph. 5:2)

Walk as children of light (Eph 5:8)

Be careful how you walk (Eph. 5:15)

Walk in a manner worthy of the Lord (Col. 1:10)

Walk and please God (1 Thess. 4:1)

**Believers who are firmly rooted in Christ, and are being built up in Him, and established in their faith, will overflow with gratitude to God. (Heb 13:15)**

### III. CONCLUSION/APPLICATION

Praise completes the circle in which the blessings that flow to us from God return to Him in the form of our praise and adoration. By taking the truth of the Word, believers get a strong mind. By living out those truths, they receive full assurance that Christ is who He claimed to be. Assured of that, they can appropriate the riches that are His legacy to believers, and walk in Him. As they walk in Him, they will grow in Him and become established in their faith. As a result, they will give praise to God.<sup>7</sup>

Some who would read this study may be confused about the very fact of Christianity or even if they really are a “believer.” Some may be unsure of their relationship with Jesus Christ. As you reflect on this, realize that you are dealing with eternal questions. This is an issue that is far too important to neglect. We are here to minister to you and welcome your questions. Please call me! (775) 842-0765.

<sup>1</sup> Kent, Homer A. Jr., *Treasures of Wisdom—Studies in Colossians and Philemon*, (BMH Books, Winona Lake, c1978 Rev 2006) p81

<sup>2</sup> Wiersbe, Warren W., *Be Complete*, (Victor Books, Cook Communications, Colorado Springs, c2005) p74

<sup>3</sup> MacArthur, John, *Liberty in Christ* [www.biblebb.com/files/MAC/sg1669.htm](http://www.biblebb.com/files/MAC/sg1669.htm)

<sup>4</sup> MacArthur, John, *Colossians & Philemon* (Moody Bible Institute, Chicago, c1992) p92

<sup>5</sup> Wiersbe, p74

<sup>6</sup> Gromacki, Robert, *Philippians & Colossians* (AMG Publishers, Chattanooga, c2003) Adaptation of outline & contents pgs 169-171

<sup>7</sup> MacArthur, p93

<sup>8</sup> Wiersbe, p75