

EXPOSITORY TEACHING ON THE LETTER TO THE COLOSSIANS

MESSAGE TEN A: WALK IN CHRIST

SCRIPTURE:

- ❖ **Colossians 2:6-7**, “Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.”

“**Therefore**”—in conclusion to what Paul wrote above. In light of the supremacy of Christ Jesus.

Colossians did two things:

i. They received Christ Jesus the Lord

- Not just receiving the information or teaching about Christ
- Not simply agreeing to the historical facts about Christ
- It is receiving the whole person Christ Jesus. This speaks about:
 - Believing
 - Fellowshiping and
 - Committing oneself to Him
 - **Billy Graham**: “No man can be said to be truly converted to Christ who has not bent his will to Christ. He may give intellectual assent to the claims of Christ and may have had emotional religious experiences; however, he is not truly converted until he has surrendered his will to Christ as Lord, Savior and Master.”

ii. They put their faith in the Lord Jesus

But that’s not enough. That’s not the end. They were still shaky. Paul says to them:

Walk in Him (The first command in the letter...) Walking in Him is generally thought about:

- Spending in secret place
- Fasting and praying for hours
- Mystical experiences

So, walk in Him: Literally, “In Him be continually walking.” The following metaphorical participles explain what it means to walk in Christ.

Four things mentioned:

- i. **Rooted (plant) in Him:** Get firmly established in the person Christ. (foundation).
 - **Illustration:** Sapling from Bangalore (planted but not yet strongly rooted)
- ii. **Built Up (building) in Him:** Building our life in the person Christ. (growth and strengthened in Him)
- iii. **Established (legal document) in the Faith:** Summary of the above two: Becoming steadfast/strong/unshakable firm/mature in the Faith in Christ. This is the focus of my message
- iv. **Abounding in Thanksgiving**

Ultimately: Walking in Christ is growing strong in our faith in the person Christ Jesus.

What is faith?

- i. Faith is UNWAVERING TRUST in God's word because God is TRUSTWORTHY
 - ❖ **Hebrews 11:11**, "By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised."
- ii. Faith is COMPLETE DEPENDENCE on God in everything because God is ALMIGHTY
 - ❖ **Hebrews 11:17-19**, "By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back."
- iii. Faith is UNCOMPROMISING OBEDIENCE to what God commands because God is LORD AND KING (This the result of the above two)
 - ❖ **James 2:21-22**, "Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works."

Therefore, to walk in Christ Jesus is to keep growing in:

- UNWAVERING TRUST in Christ's word
- COMPLETE DEPENDENCE on Christ in everything
- UNCOMPROMISING OBEDIENCE to what Christ commands

Note: In the physical life, the more we grow and become mature, the more we become independent from our dependence on our parents. In the spiritual life, the more we grow and become mature, the more we become dependent on our Heavenly Father from our independent 'self'.

The whole Christian life is a life lived from faith for faith (all about/everything faith):

- ❖ **Colossians 2:6-7**, “Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and ESTABLISHED IN THE FAITH, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.”
- ❖ **Romans 1:17**, For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from FAITH FOR FAITH, as it is written, “THE RIGHTEOUS SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.” *Observe, one becomes righteous by faith in Christ and the righteous shall live by faith in Christ.*
- ❖ **Galatians 2:20**, “I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And THE LIFE I NOW LIVE IN THE FLESH I LIVE BY FAITH IN THE SON OF GOD, who loved me and gave himself for me.”
- ❖ **2 Corinthians 5:6-7**, “So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for WE WALK BY FAITH, not by sight.”
- ❖ **Ephesians 6:16**, “In all circumstances TAKE UP THE SHIELD OF FAITH, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one.”
- ❖ **1 Peter 1:6-7**, “In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that THE TESTED GENUINENESS OF YOUR FAITH—MORE PRECIOUS THAN GOLD that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”
- ❖ **Hebrews 11:6**, “And WITHOUT FAITH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE HIM, for whoever would draw near to God MUST BELIEVE that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.”
- ❖ **Jeremiah 17:7-8**, “BLESSED IS THE MAN WHO TRUSTS IN THE LORD, WHOSE TRUST IS THE LORD. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit.”
- ❖ **Hebrews 10:37-38**, “Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; but MY RIGHTEOUS ONE SHALL LIVE BY FAITH, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him.”
- ❖ **Luke 18:6-8**, And the Lord said, “Hear what the unrighteous judge says. And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, WILL HE FIND FAITH ON EARTH?”

Application: You cannot walk in Christ and you cannot grow in Christ without growing in your faith in Christ.

- ❖ **Colossians 2:6-7**, “Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, **just as you were taught**, abounding in thanksgiving.”

“Just as you were taught” (apostolic teaching)— You can’t walk in Christ and you can’t be established in the faith according to your:

- Feelings
- Imaginations
- Opinions
- Traditions
- Teachings of men

This should be according to what is taught in the Word of God. Genuine growth in faith comes from growing according to God’s Word.

Just as faith comes from hearing the word of Christ:

- ❖ **Romans 1:17**, “So FAITH COMES FROM HEARING, and hearing through the word of Christ.”

So also faith grows by hearing the word of God:

- ❖ **2 Timothy 3:14-16**, But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, WHICH ARE ABLE TO MAKE YOU WISE FOR SALVATION THROUGH FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Application: Feed your faith by the word of God to grow stronger in your faith in Christ Jesus.

FINALLY:

- ❖ **Colossians 2:6-7**, “Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.”