



ADVANCING
THE
GOSPEL

Colossians 2:6-15

Introduction

- This passage is central to the message of Colossians. Paul urges Christians to remain rooted in Christ.
- Despite the variety of religious opportunities of the culture, Christ is supreme.
- The fullness of God dwells in Christ alone; one need not look anywhere else.
- Paul encourages Christians to remember all that God has accomplished for them through Christ and that He is before time and is worthy of all worship.

Colossians 2:6-7

Walk in Him

- Paul connects the flow of this passage with the context of the previous verses with his use of “therefore.”
- Knowing that salvation from God is available to all through Christ, Paul wants his readers to give their entire lives for sake of the Gospel.
- Don't come to God half-heartedly and every now and then.
- Now that the Colossians have come to Christ, Paul wants them to stay the course.

Walk in Him

- The present active verb *perpateō* (“walk”), the Colossians are to live every day for Christ and walk in Him.
- He says in verse 6, “as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him.” Paul wants the Colossians to keep going.
- The Colossians are to “root” themselves in Christ, bearing fruit in season and out of season.
- We should be healthy, vibrant sources of God’s mercy of grace rooted in the Gospel and built on a foundation that is eternal.

Walk in Him

- Paul wants the Colossians to know that “Faith in Christ would give them a stability which nothing could subvert.”
- When Paul writes “built up” in verse 7, he shifts from agriculture to architecture to show that after the Gospel seed produces fruit. There is still work to be done by God in the lives of believers.
- It is a lifelong process.
- One commentator says: “Let Christ — and no other! For he is Lord — establish your values, guide your thinking, direct your conduct.”

Walk in Him

- The Christian life consumes everything in a person.
- Dependence on God and faith in the Gospel don't stop after one first believes.
- Paul closes verse 7 by explaining that the Christian life is a life of gratitude. The Christian must be thankful for what God has done.
- Just as the Christian hears and responds to the message of Christ, Paul says, the Christian must remain committed to message of Christ and thankful for the message of Christ.

Colossians 2:8-10

Captive

- Paul wants the Colossians to see that all they need and could ever desire can be found in Jesus.
- He wants this to give them confidence as they stand against an ever-enticing culture. The word used in verse 8 for “take captive” is a rare word and likely means “to carry off as booty or plunder.”
- Paul doesn’t want the Colossians to be carried off by the human traditions of their day, according to verse 8. He doesn’t want the world to steal away the hearts of the Colossians.

Captive

- False teachers are attempting to lure them away with vain philosophy.
- His use of “philosophy” means “love of wisdom” and the phrase conveys a philosophy and way of life that “promises much and gives nothing.”
- This is what Paul means when he writes “empty deceit” in verse 8.
- Paul’s point isn’t to condemn philosophy as an area of study and practice.
- Rather, Paul “condemns philosophy that seduces believers from the simplicity of their faith in Christ.”

Captive

- Accepting empty beliefs that delivered nothing was the opposite of what Paul charged the Colossians with.
- He was calling them to something greater. He knew committing to Christ gave them everything.
- Paul wanted the Colossians to mature in their faith in Christ, not go backward.
- Paul's aim is to show that Christians mature as their commitment to Christ and faith in Him deepens.

Captive

- The “elemental spirits of the world,” are those elements grounded in principles that were in connection with powers diametrically opposed to the Colossians’ new life in Christ.
- Paul wants the Colossians to remember that Christ reigns supreme over the created order.
- There is nothing outside of Christ the Colossians need.
- Moreover, because of what Christ accomplished, the fullness of God now dwells in believers.

Colossians 2:11-15

Grace

- Paul transitions to give his readers rest and hope by way of reminder. It is through this Christ that they have been rescued.
- In verse 11, Paul does something interesting by connecting the Jewish tradition of circumcision to what happens in the heart of new Christians. This practice was a physical display that marked all who were included into God's people.
- Paul's focus in these verses is to show the new sign of inclusion into God's family: the transformation of the heart.

Grace

- The phrase a “circumcision of Christ” is a metaphor for the conquering of the power of sin that takes place when a person comes to Christ.
- This is in line with Paul’s teaching, found in Colossians 3:5, that believers are to put to death their earthly members.
- What was once a physical sign of divine inclusion is now one of the heart and the letting go of an allegiance to this world and sinful desire.
- This circumcision is a cleansing of the inner man, made possible by Christ’s death and Resurrection.

Grace

- In verse 12, Paul brings in the realities signified in Christian baptism.
- “In some respects, what circumcision was for the Jew, baptism was for the Christian ... baptism signifies inclusion into God’s people.”
- Just as God raised Christ from the dead, Christ raises believers from their spiritual deadness.
- Without the putting off of our sinful flesh, humanity is without hope and lifeless. God brings His children back to life through the sacrifice of Christ.

Grace

- Paul reminds the Colossians in verses 14–15 how it is that Christ brings humanity back to life: by canceling the debt that humanity owed from Adam's sin in Genesis 3.
- Because of Jesus' taking the punishment for this disobedience and idolatry, God now grants us life.
- Jesus canceled the power of sin in the hearts of God's people, as well as canceling the sentence of death that came as a result of disobedience toward God the Father.

Grace

- Concerning the record of debt mentioned in verse 14, Christ took what humanity owed and paid it with His life on Calvary.
- Christ lived the life humanity was supposed to live and died the death humanity should have died.
- This is the message of the Gospel.
- In verse 15, Paul shows exactly what Christ did to the forces and human traditions of this world.
- Paul explains that, Jesus turned tragedy into triumph!

Seven False Teachers
in the Church Today



7 False Teachers in the Church Today

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1. The Heretic

- The heretic is the most prominent and perhaps the most dangerous of the false teachers.
- Peter warned against him in his second letter: “But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction” (2 Peter 2:1).
- The heretic is the person who blatantly contradicts an essential teaching of the Christian faith.

1. The Heretic

- He is a gregarious figure, a natural leader teaching just enough truth to mask his deadly error.
- Yet in denying the faith and celebrating what is false, he leads his followers from the safety of orthodoxy to the peril of heresy.
- From the church's earliest days, the church has been afflicted by the heretic in his various forms.
- He continues his evil work today, sometimes by contradicting the truth and sometimes by adding to it.

1. The Heretic

- He may reframe the doctrine of the Trinity, as Arius did in the third century and as some TV teachers do today.
- He may, like Marcus Borg and the Jesus Seminar, deny the virgin birth or the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- Like Jehovah's Witnesses, he may alter God's finished word
- Like Mormons, he may add to it with additional "revelation."

2. The Charlatan

- The charlatan is the person who uses Christianity as a means of personal enrichment.
- “If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, and constant friction among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain” (1 Timothy 6:3-5).

2. The Charlatan

- Simon Magus was motivated by the love of money when he tried to purchase the power of the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:9-24).
- When Pope Leo X famously commissioned Tetzels to sell indulgences, the profits not only funded the reconstruction of St. Peter's Basilica, but also his luxurious lifestyle.
- In the 1990s, TV preachers like Robert Tilton brought in tens of millions of dollars each year by exploiting the vulnerable and gullible.

3. The Prophet

- The prophet claims to be gifted by God to speak fresh revelation outside of Scripture.
- In reality, though, he is commissioned and empowered by Satan for the purpose of misleading and disrupting Christ's church.
- John offered an urgent warning about him: "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world" (1 John 4:1).

3. The Prophet

- “I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book” (Revelation 22:18-19).
- As early as the second century, Montanus and his disciples claimed to speak on behalf of the Holy Spirit.
- In the nineteenth century, Joseph Smith claimed to receive *The Book of Mormon* from the angel Moroni.

4. The Abuser

- The abuser uses his position of leadership to take advantage of other people.
- Usually, he takes advantage of them to feed his sexual lust, though he may also desire power.
- “And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed” (2 Peter 2:2).
- “For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ” (Jude 4).

4. The Abuser

The New York Times



Her Evangelical Megachurch Was Her World. Then Her Daughter Said She Was Molested by a Minister.

Evangelical churches have long distanced themselves from the sexual abuse crisis that has consumed the Catholic Church. But a reckoning has arrived.



The New York Times

Southern Baptist Convention Vows to Address Sex Abuse in Its Churches



Jennifer Weed, left, and Nisha Virani demonstrated outside the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting in Birmingham, Ala., on Tuesday. Thousands of pastors voted to address the problem of sexual abuse after long refraining from suggested reforms. Julie Bennett/Associated Press

5. The Divider

- The divider uses false doctrine to disrupt or destroy a church.
- He gleefully divides brother from brother and sister from sister.
- “‘In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions.’ It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit. But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life” (Jude 18-21).

5. The Divider

- Congregations and denominations have often been splintered by the divider as he promulgates his lies.
- He sometimes makes a minor doctrine into the mark of Christian maturity, causing factions to arise within the body.
- He may slyly introduce unbiblical doctrines, or he may undermine the ordained leadership.
- He does it all for the perverse satisfaction that comes with destruction.

6. The Tickler

- The tickler is the false teacher who cares nothing for what God wants and everything for what men want.
- He is the man-pleaser rather than the God-pleaser.
- Paul thought of him as the ear-tickler: “For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths” (2 Timothy 4:3-4).

7. Speculator

- The speculator is the one obsessed with novelty, originality, or speculation.
- The author of Hebrews warned his church of these “strange teachings,” while Paul told Timothy to protect the church against any “different doctrine” (Hebrews 13:9, 1 Timothy 1:3).
- Teaching focused on speculation displaces the sure and steady doctrine of Scripture.
- The Speculator tosses aside the bulk of the Bible’s content and the weight of the Bible’s emphasis in order to obsess about matters that are trivial or novel.

Seven False Teachers in the Church Today

