

RIVERWOOD BIBLE CHURCH

July 7, 2019

“Jesus, Our Provision – Colossians 2:5-7”

*“My faith rests not in what I am, or shall be, or feel, or know,
but in what Christ is, in what he has done, and in what he is now doing for me.” - Charles H. Spurgeon*

INTRODUCTION:

- Much of America’s culturally accepted norms center around the idea of tolerance. Tolerance and acceptance of numerous beliefs or choices creates a beautiful, American collage of freedom.
 - John Finch → “Your right to swing your arms ends just where the other man’s nose begins.”
 - Thomas Jefferson → “The legitimate powers of government extend to such acts only as are injurious to others. It does me no injury for my neighbor to say there are twenty gods or no god. It neither picks my pocket nor breaks my leg.
- ❖ **Observation:** Oftentimes the thoughts or beliefs of my neighbors need to be not just rejected but also _____ against because they stand in opposition to Christ Jesus the Lord.

FALSE TEACHING VS. THE RICHES OF JESUS CHRIST:

- The specific false teaching seen in Colossae was a form of Gnosticism mixed with certain Christian beliefs.
 - Gnosticism taught that only a select **few** could possess some superior knowledge about God (Col. 1:28)
 - Another component of Gnosticism was that all physical matter was evil, leaving two possible conclusions.
 - **Asceticism** → Complete rejection and mortification of the flesh. Think _____.
 - **Abstract Detachment** → Complete freedom to use matter or leave it unused, since there is no moral obligation to it. Think unrestrained _____.
 - The Essenes were a Jewish sect who sought to merge Gnosticism with Christianity
 - Observed Mosaic rituals like the Sabbath but rejected the idea of blood sacrifice
 - Worshipped angels as intermediaries between a holy God and an evil physical world
 - i. Consider Paul’s refutation in Col. 1:16, 19 and 2:18 → The world was created by Jesus. The fullness of God’s divinity dwelled in him. This leaves no room for worship of angels.
- ❖ **Observation:** There are at least 13 separate references in Col. 2:1-15 of what is true of believers who the text says are either in Christ or with Christ. He is our _____!

PAUL’S SPIRITUAL CONNECTION TO THE SAINTS - Colossians 2:5

- Paul describes the dual reality of being physically absent but present in spirit.
 - As a fellow believer, Paul is _____ to the body of Christ in Colossae, but more specifically to this moment, he is also united to this body through his _____ authority.
 - The ministry of the Holy Spirit _____ God’s people to receive His revealed Word through God’s chosen means.
- Paul rejoices in two aspects of their devotion to the Lord. They give him delight!
 - **Their good discipline** - (*taxis*) → arrangement, order, the post one holds
 - Often used as a military term speaking of an orderly array of soldiers.
 - Also see I Cor. 14:33, 40 and Heb. 5:6

- **The firmness of their faith in Christ** - (*stereōma*) → that which has been made firm, solid, or steadfast.
 - Firmness in faith is meant to lead to victory in Christ and the power to resist the enemy (I Cor. 15:57, I Peter 5:9)

❖ **Thought:** Is your faith one that could be rightly described as orderly and firm that others can rejoice in?

CONTINUE ON IN THE SAME MANNER IN WHICH YOU BEGAN - Colossians 2:6

- The Colossians had received Christ Jesus as Lord, and Paul compares that completed act of receiving to the continuing act of walking.
 - **Received** - (*paralambanō*) → to join to one's self, to receive something transmitted, Fig. "to learn"
 - This image is not just their conversion as a new believer but also of them learning by instruction or transmission. (relationship of Epaphras and Paul to the Colossians)
 - **Live** - (*peripateō*) → to walk; to make one's way; to conduct one's self
 - The flow of this verse suggests that there is logical and necessary _____ that flows out of receiving Christ Jesus the Lord for who he truly is. And that is to _____ in him.
 - Gal. 3:3 offers the same message as Col. 2:6 in the form of a rhetorical question. *Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?*

❖ **Thought:** How does one continue on in the faith, especially in the face of spiritual adversity in your life? He does so by daily _____ of that which is theirs in Christ for their growth and flourishing.

THE PROVISION FOR HOW YOU ARE TO WALK - Colossians 2:7

Four characteristics of the Christian's walk with Christ Jesus.

- **Rooted** (*rhizoō*) → to strengthen with roots; to render firm
 - Picture a tree, firmly rooted
 - Able to receive nourishment from the soil that it needs for _____
 - Able to withstand _____
 - Able to _____ times of drought
 - Something that is rooted, by nature, must be planted. (Psalm 1:1-3)
- **Built up** (*epoikodomeō*) → to build up
 - Eph. 2:20 - built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,
- **Established** (*bebaioō*) → to make firm; stabilize
 - This portrays the process of becoming strong or we might say healthy in our Christian faith.
 - A healthy, established understanding of the truths of God's Word includes knowing your _____ in Christ. (See the Spurgeon quote on p. 1)
 - This stability is promised to the very end, even positioning you _____ before God (I Cor. 1:7-8).
- **Abounding** (*perisseuō*) → to exceed a fixed number of measure; to overflow, to have in abundance
 - The picture here is a river overflowing its banks. There is just too much water, so it floods out over the surrounding land.
 - Thanksgiving is the sphere in which abundance is manifested because that is the only proper response to understanding the provision of Jesus Christ for your life.

CONCLUSION:

1. Your life in Christ began by agreeing with Peter in Matthew 16:13-17. Is that view of Christ shaping how you walk today as a believer? Take hold of his provision and know his _____.
2. In order for us to be in the same position as the Colossian believers in Col. 2:5-7, someone had to transmit their spiritual heritage to them. How is God using you today to be the one who _____ others who need to know Jesus Christ their Lord?