

Christianity 101 Colossians 2:6,7

Growing up playing baseball there were certain basic principles that you heard over & over again – that were essential to your Success

A) When it came to hitting – The repeated principle was – “*Watch the ball hit the bat*” – *Keep your eye on the ball* – Shoulder to shoulder

B) When it came to catching – *Use two hands and watch the ball go into the glove*
FIELDING – *Stay down on the ball* –

C) Those 3 principles I heard over & over starting in Little league & going all the way into college – **They are the Fundamentals**

We have them in everything in life – Driving – Fundamental Principle check your blind spot before Changing lanes

A) Now I have a wife who also Checks it ...saved me from more than one...

B) Computers – Save your documents – It is basic stuff – but how many of us have started working on something – not saving – computer crashes

1) Eddie Help – *I was almost done with my message – now it is gone – what do I do ?*
PRAY & TRUST GOD !!!!!

D) It is true that throughout life – there are those basic principles that if followed will keep you on the right path / keep you from harm

1) And help you to succeed in the arena that you are taking on !!!

Well the same thing is true in the Christian life – And the passage that we are looking at today contains such principles [Christianity 101]

A) Now today is Fathers today and I am not one to do a special message for all the holidays of the year – if we did we'd never get thru the Bible

B) So we just continue in our place – but if you are a Father – listen extra close - Because if you take it to heart – what we are going to talk about today to apply it to your own life & pass it on to your kids / grandkids –

YOU WILL DO WELL & SO WILL THEY!!!!!! RD v 6-7

C) Now recap – Paul is writing to believers who were being influenced by false teachers to look beyond Christ – look past Christ

1) Teachers who were telling them it is not as simple as just believing in Jesus – Jesus is important but there is more –

D) These false teachers entered into the Church of Colossi and were seeking to Complicate their Christianity –

1) In doing so they were undermining the Sufficiency of Christ !!!!

Listen to what Paul says here to those believers V.6 *As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him*

A) Now Paul keys in on a very important truth about the Christian life – and that is this – IT IS A WALK W/ GOD / Walking implies 3 things:

B) 1st it implies Continuance !!

The banks of a river in Arizona called the Rio Rivera are lined with a substance called ‘near quicksand’. It’s almost quicksand — but not quite. **If you keep walking on this near-quicksand, you don’t have a problem. But if you stop, you’ll start sinking, and you’ll get sucked in.**

C) So too, the Christian experience is a walk. If we don’t keep moving, we’ll start sinking.
STAGNATE

D) **SO Over and over, the Scriptures tell us to walk** — (Ephesians 5:8), to walk in light (Ephesians 5:2), in love (Colossians 4:5) in wisdom.

1) And here we are told to walk in simplicity.
V.6 As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him

E) The way to **keep moving** is to walk in the same way we received Christ.

Question What was our spiritual genesis like? - Started w/ Grace

A) The word Received = gift / it implies that it was not achieved thru merit

Paul declared in Eph 2:8 *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast*

A) God's grace = his undeserved favor that moved Him to send His son to pay the price – God is the initiator of our Salvation –

B) He saw us lost in our sin / doomed to eternal damnation / separated from all of His blessings – **And He moved on our behalf**

1) In His love & grace – He sent His Son to die on the Cross for our sins to pay the price – to take our punishment

C) Then he extended blessing to us that we did not deserve by offering us Salvation – God is the initiator – **We are the responders**

1) **Our Response is faith** - we believe that what Jesus did is able to save us – set us free – give us life – Put our trust in His work to save us

D) **That is how we received Christ – we heard a simple message describing God's gracious plan for salvation & we responded**

1) I doubt that very few here came to Christ after sitting thru a 10 hr apologetic seminar –

E) **No - Someone shared the gospel in it's simplicity – How we were sinners / how we needed a savior because we were lost in our sin**

1) How Jesus came to be that Savior – How He died to pay the price for our sins – that he took the punishment that we deserved

F) And If we put our faith in what He did – trusted Christ – SAVED

It was that simple – If most of us were to think back to our conversions we would realize – we didn't know very much at all

A) My Dad – watched the Change - Became very real to me – around 11yrs old - **THE SMARTALEX REMARK** - the calm response

B) *Have you asked Jesus in your heart yet ?*

1) All I knew at that particular time was that You needed Jesus in your heart in order to not go to Hell / So I asked Him in [**Simple innocent but sincere**]

C) **Philippian jailer – Acts 16 - "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"**

31 So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved,

D) **It was that simple – We believed on the Lord Jesus and were saved Believe = To cling to to trust in and to rely upon**

1) Believe that **He died on the Cross for your sins** – believe that He rose again to give you life – believe that He is the only way to heaven

E) **We are responding to the grace of God – responding to the word of God - **Simply believing in the Promise of God****

1) That Salvation, blessing, and the assurance of Everlasting life is simply available thru faith in Jesus Christ !!!! – Clinging to Him / Trusting in Him

So the same way that we began our walk w/ God we are to Continue in walking w/ God – By Grace thru Faith

A) **The Grace of God that says my blessings are not based upon your performance – but upon our relationship**

B) Because you are my Child – because we are now in agreement & you have Chosen to walk w/ Me /I want to bless you /I want to work in your life

C) **Me w/ my kids – I clothe them / feed them / take care of all of their needs – and sometimes – bless them w/ special gifts**

1) **Simply because they are my kids and I love them**

As a Christian it is faith that leads me to walk believing THAT really is God's heart toward me !!! Respond in faith to that Reality

A) Two brothers were approached by their father – He told them that because He loved them and were proud of them – Special present

B) Whatever they wanted – they thought about it and made their request – Dad said great- You'll get them in two weeks

C) Well the older of the two brothers started to have doubts/ he sat down & calculated the expense of his present- he wondered if his dad could afford **Then He started thinking about his behavior over the last couple of months and how he really hadn't been doing well in School**

A) **He had disobeyed his parents a couple of times / His attitude hadn't been the greatest –**

B) So He started to think – there is no way I deserve some special gift from my dad – there is no he is going to bless me in that way

1) He was walking around the house those 2 wks, **depressed & discouraged –**

C) His younger brother was the complete opposite – He believed the promise of his father and ran out & told all of his friends

1) **Guess what my father is doing for me !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!** For two weeks he was one little ball of expectation & anticipation

D) All because he simply believed in the Love & Promise of his father

Listen sad to say – more often than I care to admit my life resembles the attitude of that older brother

A) **I don't deserve anything from God – Haven't performed up to par – I don't doubt his ability to bless & to work – I doubt his willingness**

B) **Why would God want to bless my life today? Why would God want to do anything extra special for me today.**

1) I am glad that I am saved – but wrong for me to expect anything more

C) Listen that would be like me saying to one of my kids – when they make a request of me – *I brought you into this world – what more do you want.*

D) Oh how we need to be like that younger son – My Father loves me and made a Promise to me – I am going to believe it and walk in it

1) Trust that my Father wants the best for me / is looking out for me / never leave me / in difficult times He is there / Victories are because of Him

E) When I believe that why would I ever not want to continue w/ Him – He is the greatest – **It inspires me to live to please Him / Serve Him / tell others**

So walking implies Continuance – It also implies Communion

A) When we came to Christ – didn't join a Church / or a Religion – We entered into a relationship W/ God

B) Amos asked – ***How can two walk together unless they are agreed?***

C) **FACT:** We were not in agreement w/ God – Enemies of God
But He Changed that - By Grace – made way become friends

1) Outside the family – to inside – Go from being Judge to being father

So we were separated from God – no relationship/ but Jesus made a way for us to now live in relationship w/ God & walk with Him

A) It is a time for that relationship to Grow & develop – time for that relationship to get strengthened –

B) And every good Relationship involves Communication – God has Chosen to communicate to us in two ways

C) One is thru his Word – His Love letter to us – Shares His heart – How much He loves us – His plans to bless us – The Future He has for us

1) His word is also His play book – He lays out for us instruction on how to live a life that is pleasing to Him

D) How to live life in such a way that we are experiencing life to the fullest as He intended that we experience

1) **Abundant life – Living in relationship with Him**

The 2nd way that we He communicates with us is thru His Spirit that He has placed in our hearts –

A) Convicting us of Sin to come to Christ – now He is seeking to lead us to avoid sin that we might live a life – that pleases Christ

B) That voice of the spirit in our hearts is always going to coincide with that voice of God's word –

C) So we go thru life – walking with the Lord – listening to the voice of His word – that leads / inspires / encourages / warns us

1) And responding to the voice of His Spirit that convicts / guides

And As we go thru this life – we learn more and more about Him / His love and ourselves

A) It is sort of like an engaged couple – their walk is not about the **Destination as it is about the Discovery & the Preparation**

B) They know where they are headed – they are headed to the altar – they are headed toward their wedding Day –

C) But in the mean time in the month's leading up to that day it is a time of **Preparation & Discovery**

1) They are individually preparing themselves for that day and they are discovering more and more about each other and their love is growing

D) SO too for the believer – we are engaged to Christ – Perfect husband

We know where we are going HEAVEN/we know what is waiting Wedding

1) Our Lord already knows us – but our time of walking with Him on this earth is **all about Discovery** – We learn more about Him

E) We learn more about His Heart and Grace that enables us to respond in Faith – because we are learning – How much He loves us

1) What He desires for us –

So the walk implies Communion – A fellowship – A Sharing of Life and heart and experience

A) Walking also implies Progress – Paul describes that progress in v.7 with the illustration of a plant or a tree.

7 rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.

Now the beginnings of a tree starts with the planting of a Seed !

A) That seed takes root as it receives a steady & consistent supply of water

Water in the Bible is Symbolic of the Word of God

B) So we become rooted as we take in a Steady supply of Bible study – Our roots go deeper

1) **JESUS TOLD THE STORY OF THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER**

C) **Seed = The gospel** – Planted in 4 soils / representing **4 different hearts**

4 different Responses / 4 different lives

1) **1st was the Hard ground** = Hard heart – Devil snatches away – no penetrate

2nd Stony ground – Shallow heart – no depth – never takes

D) **Stony soil** – represents the person who has an emotional response to the gospel but doesn't make a real commitment – real decision

1) Not really ready to Follow Christ & surrender their all to Christ

Next is the thorny soil – here the seed actually takes root & the tree starts to grow – but there is no Fruit –

A) Because the seed sown amongst thorns & the thorns Choke out the seed and it ceases to grow

B) Jesus identified the thorns as the *cares of this life & the pursuit of riches*

1) Things that **distract us** from following Christ – walking w/ Christ – giving priority to our relationship **WITH CHRIST**

C) So those are 3 soils that never get rooted to the point of really growing

D) But then there is the good soil – **Unhindered** – The heart that realizes that Jesus is everything – He is it – That soil the root goes down deep !!!

1) The life that continues after Jesus – receiving a steady diet of the His word – **grows and Produces Fruit** -

After being Rooted – next word – Built up – this describes the tree that is growing bigger and stronger as it's roots go down deeper

A) this describes the person who is growing stronger in their day to day relationship w/ Jesus

B) It describes the person who is **developing their spiritual muscles**

Learning God's word – getting it in their hearts – They are built up

C) Then Paul mentions the **word ESTABLISHED** – This word speaks of **stability – being able to weather the storms & trials life throws at us**

1) The deeper the roots the **more Established** the tree is going to be !!!

D) **PARABLE OF THE TWO BUILDERS – Matt Ch.7**

1) Foolish man the Sand – storm hits – House destroyed – Sand = hears the word and doesn't apply it

E) Wise Man – Rock – Storm hits – Stands On the Rock – Rock = hears the word and does it

The Established life is the one that is rooted deeply into Jesus & His word –

A) So that **WHEN** the Winds of False teaching / trials storms of life come – it is able to stand - **Rooted deeply into Jesus – Established**

B) **Job – He worshipped – Naked I came naked I go – the Lord gives the Lord takes away blessed be the name of the Lord –**

1) **Job was not a Super Saint – But He was ESTABLISHED**

C) **Redwoods** – Huge trees able to with stand fierce storms - Not just depth of root – but **INTERLOCKING ROOT SYSTEM**

1) Fellowship – Connected to Jesus

Finally Paul uses the phrase Abounding in the faith w/ thanksgiving

A) **Abounding** is the picture of the tree **BEARING fruit !!!**

B) **John 15 – Jesus said – Abide in me & let my words abide in you result = You will bear much fruit –**

1) **In this my Father is glorified – You are fruitful –**

C) When the **Fruit of the HS** is evident in your Life – Love / Joy / peace / patience / kindness / self control

1) Those attributes and Characteristics that make you start to look like Jesus

God is blessed w/ Your life & Glorified by your life !!!!

That is what happens as you abide: Continuing w/ Jesus / walking in Communion with Him / Allowing His word to take root in your life

A) **You become built up / established / and fruitful in the Lord**

B) David the Psalmist describes this same person – in Psalm 1 where he says that the blessed man is the one who **DELIGHTS in God's WORD**

1) **AND meditates in the word day & night**

C) That person he says *shall be like a tree
Planted by the rivers of water,
That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose
leaf also shall not wither;
And whatever he does shall prosper.*

CHUCK'S PROVERBS – KEEP IT SIMPLE

- Paul says here

A) Walk the way you received Christ –
responding in Faith to God's grace
Believing in and Clinging to the word of God

B) Believing in & Clinging to the promise of
God

1) Keep Christ Central –

C) Result – You will be like the tree – Rooted /
built up / established and abounding with fruit
for the Lord - AMEN