

Colossians 2:6,7 “Walk in Him”

Most of you know that I grew up playing baseball and played throughout High School and briefly at the College level.

A) There were also certain basic principles that you heard over & over again – that were essential to your Success

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

C) When it came to catching – *Use two hands and watch the ball go into the glove*

1) **FIELDING GROUND BALLS** – *Stay down on the ball* –

D) 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 – Nervous REACTION
...saved me from more than one...

B) 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

C) 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**]

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,⁷ rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.

THREE BIG IDEAS

#1 Walking implies Relationship:

A) How did you come into this relationship?

B) As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord

C) John 1:10-12 ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. ¹¹ He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. ¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

Remember when you were saved? – Never forget the night I did

A) I was 11 yrs old – **going to public school** – around a lot of unbelievers -Dirty talk NORMAL

B) **Going to church** – I hadn’t received Christ yet)

C) ONE NIGHT -My dad said something to me – and I fired back with a very smart aleck dirty response –

1) It just came out – **NOOOOO!** – **grab back.**

D) As the words reach my dad’s ears – I watched for his reaction –

1) I braced myself for what I thought was coming next

My Dad had a temper – But he didn’t get mad –

A) Jesus had done a work in him – Radical work – He was changed

B) He looked at me and said: Very calmly – Have you asked Jesus to come into your heart yet? – I said no!

1) He said: I think you should -

C) I thought cause he is going to kill me and he wants me in heaven) That was all

D) **I walked into my bedroom and said** – God that was weird – What have you done with my dad – I like it – I want it!

1) **IT WAS THAT SIMPLE** – { **HE quit drinking** Paul says in Ephesians 2:8 “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God,⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.”

A) Saved by Grace through faith – THAT SIMPLE – believed in what Jesus did for me –

Aa) **Died in my place – Embraced that through faith**

B) **Mercy is not getting what you do deserve –**
1) Grace is getting what you don't deserve.

C) I realized the grace and mercy my dad showed me that night
1) was the result of the Grace HE HAD RECEIVED FROM GOD - **I Wanted that!**

When it comes to Salvation – it is important to realize that God is the initiator and our role is to respond

A) We didn't do anything to earn our salvation – NO BOASTING –

B) We simply responded to the grace that God has SHOWN US

C) Paul is telling us to continue in that Pattern!
As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,

1) Walk the exact same way that you received – **RESPONDING TO His grace through faith AND OBEDIENCE**

A) But this is where we get all messed up – We start feeling like we need to perform in order to EARN HIS FAVOR!

B) **INSTEAD OF just believing that we have it!**

C) That is what these false teachers were suggesting – What Jesus did was not enough to save you. -

1) You need to add to the work of Christ
....Perform

When the church in Galatia was getting off track – because they were being told that they needed to add all these things – which human effort really saved

A) Paul asked a pointed question – “Can that which has begun in the Spirit be perfected in the flesh?” – Galatians 3:3

B) You can't add to the work of Christ
1) **Crayons to a Monet – Rembrandt – Ugly – out of whack**

C) Can't add to God's grace – Improve on God's grace or do anything to EARN His grace!

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

D) Simply because they are my kids and I love them

1) Harvest festival- Come on I brought you here...

D) As a Christian THAT really is God's heart toward me !!! – **Luke 12 Fathers pleasure**

1) He wants us to Respond in faith to that Reality!

#1 Walking implies Relationship: Who is that relationship with?

A) Paul doesn't do anything by accident - PAY ATTENTION DETAIL

B) Shares two things about our relationship with Jesus – Important, easy to miss

B) Note: Paul could have said: As you have received **Jesus** – would have BEEN Fine
1) He doesn't – He gives him a **BIGGER DESCRIPTION** – Christ Jesus the Lord!

C) Why? - **Christ** – was the term of the Messiah – **The Lord** – the preeminent one!

Remember Paul is combating false teachers who were wanting to down play the Deity and the Importance of Jesus!

A) So Paul throws out another **Colossal statement** here:

B) You have received – Jesus who is the Christ – the Long awaiting Messiah.

C) And He is the Lord – the Preeminent one – **THE ONE WHO IS OVER ALL THINGS!**

C) That Plays huge in what Paul says next – **So walk in Him**

I also think it is interesting that Paul doesn't say so walk FOR HIM!

A) We would understand that – He is the Lord – I need to do something for Him – Submitted to Him – He is King –

B) Totally true – not what Paul says or even implies here

C) Nor does Paul say “As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord so walk WITH HIM!”

1) That IS IMPLIED – walking with – and would have made total sense!

D) What Paul says is even bigger than that

Notice what Paul says As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord so walk – catch this- so walk in Him!

A) NIV “So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him,”

B) Being with is nice – being in is better!

C) Let’s say I was at the Dodger game last night – invited to come and sit in the dug out! – Nice – really cool.

1) With the team!

D) But let’s pretend for a moment – Fantasy – **the Dodgers called and said We want you to suit up** – you are on the team – Pitching if Grenke – trouble

1) Moved from being simply with them in the dugout – Now I am in the organization

E) Perks – Uniform – Access – club house – work out facility – contract

That is the idea here: Walk IN HIM! – He is Christ Jesus the Lord

A) He is the King – Messiah – the Preeminent one – NOT JUST WITH HIM – YOU ARE IN HIM!

B) Difference saying: You can stay with us at my house – few nights

1) To saying – You are in the family – **Mi Casa – You Casa –**

C) My Stuff your Stuff – YOU ARE IN THE FAMILY!

D) HE IS THE LORD! – You are in HIM Let the REALITY OF **WHO HE IS** – and who **YOU ARE IN HIM** set the PATTERN FOR YOUR LIFE!

#1 Walking implies relationship

- Christ Jesus the Lord
- Walk IN HIM

#2 WALKING IMPLIES PROGRESS

The banks of a river in Arizona called the Rio Rivera are lined with a substance called ‘near quicksand’.

B) It’s almost quicksand — but not quite.

C) If you keep walking on this near-quicksand, you don’t have a problem.

1) But if you stop, you’ll start sinking, and you’ll get sucked in.

So too, the Christian experience is a walk.

A) If we don’t keep moving, we’ll start sinking. STAGNATE

B) So often we stop in the walk – Hurt – confused – something happens doesn’t make sense. – WE STOP

C) Keep on walking – Pastor Chuck – Wisdom –

1) Up against something you don’t know – Cling to what you do know!

D) He is Christ Jesus THE LORD – you are in Him – He loves You!!!!

1) WALK IN THAT REALITY!

So Walking implies Progress – Paul gives us a picture of Agriculture to describe What that progress Looks like in v.7

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) Roots going down – drinking in the water!

C) Written in the present continuous sense – LIT: - **BEING ROOTED**

1) Never stop being rooted – receiving nourishment of the water

D) Water in Scripture is symbolic of the word!

E) Roots have access to moisture. For a tree to bear fruit it must have its feet in the water

Water is the word - Psalm 1

Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,

Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;

² **But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.**

³ **He 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.**

What's on the tree above the ground –reveals what it secretly feeds upon underground

A) Being Rooted leads to Being Built up

B) **Roots go down – Tree goes up!**

1) Being Built up = Growing taller – bigger – stronger

C) Being rooted leads to being Built up and Being Built up leads to Being Established !

D) Think of the Word established – we think of something that cannot be moved! – Strong – stood the test of time!

PARABLE OF THE TWO BUILDERS – Matt Ch.7 – Two men built – one sand – one rock – WHEN THE STORM HITS – NOT IF – ALWAYS.....

A) Difference? Sand = hears the word and doesn't apply it

B) Wise Man –Rock = hears the word and does it

C) **Doers of the word not just hearers – Take in the word = ROOTED –**

1) Do it, apply it = Built up and established

So the Progress – Rooted leads to being built up – being Built up leads to being established – being established leads to Abounding!

Abounding in the faith w/ thanksgiving

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

B) **Overflowing – Fruit – here is what that looks like -**

Walking in Jesus – More like Jesus

C) **Jesus illustrated this in John 15 – I am the Vine – You are the Branches –**

D) **Abide IN me** – staying connected –

1) **Abide IN me and let my words abide IN YOU = MUCH FRUIT**

E) **In this the father is glorified –You bear MUCH FRUIT**

PRECIOUS CHURCH: As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,⁷ rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.

Here today – not a believer – Jesus invites you into the family!

A) **Embrace the Cross – Faith**

B) **He will come to live in your heart**

C) **You will be placed in Him**