

Living continually with Christ as Lord

“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.”

Colossians 2:6-7

It would be best to take these two verses as a summary appeal in light of Paul's previous words - an appeal for his readers to remain true to Christ as Lord. Paul's appeal is for the church to remain in Him just as when they had received Him. There seems to be a tendency in the life of the believer to get caught up in the things of the world as they progress in time. It was true then of the Colossian church and it is true of the church today. How old in the Lord are you? Do you remember when you made Jesus the Lord of your life? Do you remember how eager you were to learn and follow Him? Sometimes when we have been at something for a while we cool off a bit and take it for granted. It could be your job, your marriage or one of your hobbies. We get a little “ho-hum” about the familiar.

Paul encourages us to keep our passion for Jesus alive. He urges us to keep Jesus as our Lord and he stresses three ways that we can do that. First he says stay rooted and built up in Him. Being rooted refers to the power of stability in our lives which comes through the Word of God. Being built up refers to the ever ongoing process of growth. We are to always build or add to our faith. You cannot have one without the other. Good foundations are necessary for sound buildings and rising buildings are the glory of stable foundations. How is the Word establishing you and what new growth has the Holy Spirit brought to your life.

Paul then exhorts us to be strengthened in the faith. To strengthen something you need to exercise it. Your faith needs to be stretched. By faith Paul is referring to the body of truth that is found in Jesus and his Word, and the ability to trust in the Lord with all of your heart and depend on Him every day as you walk through your life and apply His principals and standards. Faith grows strong by application. How have you walked in His Word believing that what He says will bring you peace and blessing? This is the fun and the new and the exciting part of living for Him! What has He shown you lately as you have been obedient and faithful?

Lastly, Paul says that we are to overflow with thankfulness. This is one of Paul's favorite words. He uses it over twenty six times in his letters. The word overflow here means a river at flood stage seeping throughout the entire valley. When it recedes it leaves many nutrients in the soil. Gratitude is infectious. It lights up your life and the lives of others. Many in our generation look at what they don't have or what they want. Can you find it in your heart to be thankful to the Lord for something today?

Remember, just as you received Jesus as the Lord of your life, continue to live in Him. The true church should have such a grip on His lordship that the allures of this world look pale compared to what is found in Him. Jesus, as the song says, is all you need.