

## Established in the Faith; Colossians 2:6-8

### I. To Receive

- A. To take into close association, gain jurisdiction over, take along with you
- B. We receive all kinds of things
  - 1. Money
  - 2. We can fold it up and make it look however we want it to
  - 3. But in order to use it, we must return it to its original shape
- C. Colossians 2:6 (ESV); Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him,
- D. What we have received (the Bible through the Holy Spirit) is how we grow and mature in Jesus — not by twisting it up and making it look like something different

### II. Established

- A. Colossians 2:7–8 (ESV); <sup>7</sup> rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. <sup>8</sup> See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.
- B. To put something beyond doubt, firm in commitment
- C. Taken Captive
  - 1. Luke 4:18–19 (ESV); <sup>18</sup> “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, <sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”
  - 2. The Pharisees had taken Israel captive with their twisting of the Mosaic Law
  - 3. Matthew 23:1–7 (ESV); <sup>1</sup> Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, <sup>2</sup> “The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses’ seat, <sup>3</sup> so do and observe whatever they tell you, but not the works they do. For they preach, but do not practice. <sup>4</sup> They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on people’s shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to move them with their finger. <sup>5</sup> They do all their deeds to be seen by others. For they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long, <sup>6</sup> and they love the place of honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues <sup>7</sup> and greetings in the marketplaces and being called rabbi by others.
  - 4. Sin holds us captive
  - 5. Romans 7:5–6 (ESV); <sup>5</sup> For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death. <sup>6</sup> But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code.
  - 6. Philosophy — erroneous teaching (BDAG)
  - 7. Empty — devoid (not having) intellectual, material, or spiritual value (BDAG)
  - 8. Deceit — (deceitful) misleading, not honest (Merriam Webster’s)
    - a) “To the traditions of men” — So much of human’s religiosity is cultural, not biblical. Often we pass on what we have received without checking the Bible for ourselves!
    - b) “Not according to Christ” — It is based on human reasoning, experience, or speculation.
    - c) “The elementary principles” — The basic physical building blocks of the world (air, water, earth, and fire)” <sup>1</sup>
  - 9. This is why being “established in the faith” is so important
- D. The very next couple of verses is the reason why

### III. Filled

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<sup>1</sup> Robert James Utley, Paul Bound, the Gospel Unbound: Letters from Prison (Colossians, Ephesians and Philemon, Then Later, Philipppians), vol. Volume 8, Study Guide Commentary Series (Marshall, TX: Bible Lessons International, 1997), 31.

- A. Colossians 2:9–10 (ESV); <sup>9</sup> For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, <sup>10</sup> and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.
  - B. We have been given Christ who dwells in us, the Holy Spirit who dwells in us
    - 1. We cannot leave them for a philosophy that is without intellectual, material, or spiritual value
    - 2. Christ is our authority and our reality
    - 3. All too often we mistake him for just authority (and He is that — Matthew 28:18)
    - 4. But He is primarily our reality — “you have been filled in Him”
    - 5. The reality is the Almighty Father chose to make his dwelling place with (in) us so that we can make our dwelling place with Him!
    - 6. Romans 8:8–11 (ESV); <sup>8</sup> Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. <sup>9</sup> You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup> But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup> If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.
    - 7. 1 Corinthians 6:19 (ESV); Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own,
  - C. Do not mistake sincerity for reality!
    - 1. We can sincerely try to serve God without the reality of having been filled in Christ
    - 2. Matthew 7:21 (ESV); “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.
    - 3. Don’t mistake authority and reality
    - 4. The reality is we have Jesus filling us — the authority belongs to Him, not us!
- IV. Buried
- A. Colossians 2:11–12 (ESV); <sup>11</sup> In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, <sup>12</sup> having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.
  - B. This is how we are filled in Christ
  - C. This is the beginning of the true reality of Jesus — that He is the Savior, the Messiah, the Christ
  - D. Philippians 2:9–11 (ESV); <sup>9</sup> Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
  - E. This is why we must be “rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving”