

Walk In Him; Colossians 2:6-7

- I. Firmness of Faith
 - a. Therefore, and before
 - b. Colossians 2:1-5
 - c. Paul struggled with false teachings in many places
 - i. One of those false teachings is the requirement to follow the Mosaic law
 - ii. There were groups of people that would go behind Paul and teach this requirement to new churches
 - iii. Galatians 2:12 (ESV) ¹² For before certain men came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles; but when they came he drew back and separated himself, fearing the circumcision party.
 - iv. The circumcision party are ones who would require circumcision under the Law for all believers in Jesus
 - v. The full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery is that they (Gentiles) are included in the Gospel
 - vi. Verse 5 shows us the Colossians' response to the Gospel and to those who would teach falsely
 - vii. Colossians 2:5 (ESV) ⁵ For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ.
 - d. Then Paul gives us three things that would help to keep their faith firm
 - e. Colossians 2:6 (ESV) ⁶ Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him,
- II. Rooted
 - a. Epaphras was likely the one who started the Church in Colossae
 - i. Colossians 1:7 (ESV) ⁷ just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf
 - ii. Epaphras was a companion of Paul
 1. Colossians 4:12–13 (ESV) ¹² Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God. ¹³ For I bear him witness that he has worked hard for you and for those in Laodicea and in Hierapolis.
 2. Philemon 23–24 (ESV) ²³ Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends greetings to you, ²⁴ and so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers.
 - iii. They received the Gospel from someone whom Paul trusted and was his “fellow prisoner,” arrested for the Gospel
 - b. “Rooted” in Him (Jesus)
 - i. ‘Put on a firm foundation, fix firmly’ (Hom. et al.) pass. **be/become firmly rooted/fix** ¹
 - ii. Some trees put down shallow roots
 - iii. When the storm blows, the tree falls

¹ William Arndt et al., [*A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*](#) (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 906.

- iv. Some trees have deep roots
- v. When the storm comes, the tree can withstand it
- vi. Jesus uses this same idea in the parable of the seeds
- vii. Matthew 13:5–6 (ESV) ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, ⁶ but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away.
- viii. Later, Jesus explains this parable to his disciples
- ix. Matthew 13:20–21 (ESV) ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away.
- c. How deep are our (your) roots?
 - i. We all experience a hot scorching sun (or storms, tribulation, persecution, etc.)
 - ii. How do we react to them?
 - iii. I really believe that our reaction depends upon our roots, and how deep they go
 - iv. Demas' roots didn't go very deep
 - 1. We read in Philemon 24 that Paul considered him a "fellow worker"
 - 2. We read in 2 Timothy 4:10 that Demas' love for Jesus changed to a love for the world
 - 3. Some type of 'storm' hit him, and everything changed
 - 4. Because he did not have deep roots, he fell
- d. Are you rooted in Jesus?
- III. Built Up
 - a. "Built up" in Him
 - i. **To engage in a building process of personal and corporate development, *edify, build up/on*** ²
 - ii. It is no surprise that Jesus also uses a construction metaphor
 - iii. Matthew 7:24–27 (ESV) ²⁴ "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. ²⁶ And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. ²⁷ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it."
 - iv. Both men heard the words of Jesus, but only one followed them
 - v. Houses that don't have a solid foundation (good order and firmness of faith) fall
 - vi. But a home that is built on the foundation of the truth of the Gospel can withstand any storm
 - b. What is our foundation?
 - i. Ephesians 2:19–22 (ESV) ¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ built on

² Ibid, 387.

the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,²¹ in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.²² In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

- ii. Jesus spent a lot of time telling the people that the Kingdom was coming and that He was the Messiah, but they refused to believe Him
 - iii. Do we refuse to believe the foundation of the apostles and prophets?
 - iv. People like to pick and choose which Scriptures have meaning for them and ignore the ones they don't like
 - 1. If it doesn't fit in with their view of who God is, then it is okay to ignore it
 - 2. It is easier to ask God into my heart instead of reenacting Jesus' death burial and resurrection in immersion
 - 3. God is love, so justice and righteousness have no bearing on behavior
 - 4. God (very clearly) deals with the sins of people and nations throughout the Bible
 - a. He sends Israel off into captivity for their Idol worship
 - b. He sends Titus to besiege Jerusalem because they rejected Jesus
 - c. Luke 19:41–44 (ESV)⁴¹ And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it,⁴² saying, "Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.⁴³ For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side⁴⁴ and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation."
 - 5. Our society wants us to believe any behavior is okay if we don't hurt anyone... a "victimless crime"
 - c. We must build our Christianity, with Christ as the cornerstone, on the foundation of the apostles and prophets as given to us through the Holy Spirit
- IV. Established
- a. "Established" in Him
 - i. **To put something beyond doubt, confirm,**³
 - ii. We cannot forget the "in Him"
 - iii. Jesus, the Messiah, must be beyond doubt for us
 - 1. I know that David sometimes wondered where God was when he was going through some rough times
 - 2. Psalm 13:1–6 (ESV)¹ How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?² How long must I take counsel in my soul and have sorrow in my heart all the day? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?³ Consider and answer me, O LORD my God; light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death,⁴ lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him," lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken.⁵ But I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart

³ Ibid, 173.

shall rejoice in your salvation. ⁶ I will sing to the LORD, because he has dealt bountifully with me.

3. Do we see how David ended the Psalm?

4. God was beyond doubt for David

b. Is Jesus beyond doubt for us?

i. We go through so many trials, tribulations, deaths, etc.

ii. Sometimes it may cause us to doubt... "How can a loving God allow all of this to happen?"

iii. We know the blame is not God's but Satan's (or ours)

iv. Romans 5:12 (ESV) ¹² Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—

v. Bad things happen, not because of God, but because of humanity!

vi. Satan tempted Eve, so if we are going to place blame, place it on Satan!

c. Don't let someone else's actions cause you to doubt

V. Walk In Him

a. Be rooted in Jesus

b. Be built up in Jesus

c. Be established in Jesus