

Colossians 2: 6&7

Brothers and sisters,

In the last 20 years we have seen a tremendous amount of change...especially technologically
 --with the coming of the internet never have we had so much info at our fingertips
 --with a click of a button we can look up anything that we are interested in....
 (just a few years ago it would have been necessary to do a lot of research...)

But today it is almost instantaneous (瞬间的, 即刻的) ...

--you can follow what is happening (plane crash in Egypt, ISIS,...even Trump ☺)
 --you can keep up with friends a half a world away...
 --you can read the daily newspaper in whatever country you choose to...

But today we receive so much information→really it is information overload

--we are inundated with (被淹没在) so many different messages...perspectives...points
 --we are forced to digest so much ...

At times it makes one's head spin...

--there are so many convincing (有说服力的) voices about what is right and wrong...
 --about what we ought to believe and what we ought not to believe...
 --it can make you question what you believe→ so many roads...

Now here in the book of Colossians Paul warns against those “who would deceive you with persuasive words.”

--the apostle Paul was concerned...(not because he had started it...like others)
 --but because he knew of the attacks that were coming against the church...
 --specifically by those who were attacking the core of Xity (基督教信仰) ...who JC was...
 --denied the deity (神性) of Christ...legalism (律法主义) ...

Here in our passage Paul is challenging them to stay the course... to not get confused... ..to not be deceived...

--he wanted to see them go forward...progress in their faith...

Our theme is from 2: 6,7.....“Lives overflowing with gratitude 感恩”

- 1) Walk in Jesus Christ
- 2) Rooted and built up in Him
- 3) Overflow in our gratitude for what He has done.

1) WALK IN CHRIST →Read 6a

Paul has just been talking about the faith of the Christians in Colosse...

--in verse 5 he rejoiced in how well-ordered they were...strength of their faith...
 --in chapter 1:3-5 READ

So there was no doubt that they had responded genuinely to the gospel message...

--it was real...God's work of grace was very evident...
 --in the way that they had responded...the fruits produced by true faith

Verse 6 begins by saying “as you therefore have received JC as Lord...walk”

--what Paul is saying to them now is...look at what God has done in your life...
 --remember the time when you “received Christ”
 (today we hear a lot about receiving Christ....superficial→ explain)

We see here that it is a scriptural concept....there comes a point...(explain)

--“*Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved*”
 --we understand that this is God's work in our life....
 --through the work of the HS (圣灵)he shows us our sin...draws us...

Paul says here→remember what Christ has done, and WALK in such a way that reflects..

--in the imperative (必要条件) ≠ walk and keep on walking

The fact that he says JC the LORD is important...

--Jesus is your Saviour AND your LORD...(
EG/ Lordship controversy (争议)

We need to remember that Paul is speaking to new Christians...

--men and women just out of the world

Those who have recently come to faith understand clearly the work of Christ...

--brought from darkness to light...many times they are excited and passionate...
--want to share their faith
(exciting to around them)

Yet they are also vulnerable (脆弱) ...baby Christians...

--just learning what it means to walk with Christ...
--go off the path....
--those who want

EG/ Learning to walk... (For those of you who have young children...)

--you remember those first few steps..
--my kids would have big bruises ☺ ☺
--true for new Christians as well

This is why Paul says to exhorts the church to WALK faithfully (many times)

--prayed in vs 10 that they would “walk worthy of the Lord, being fruitful in every good work.”
--4:5 “walk in wisdom towards those outside, redeeming the time”

?But what does this mean practically...how do we walk with Christ????

2) VS 6 goes on explaining this concept → 2ndly the Christian is to be “rooted and built up, established in the faith”

When we talk about putting our roots down we mean to say that we have stayed for a while in a place....(you get to know people....established).

--for those of you who have lived many years in one place you know what it is like
--if you move to new area→it takes time for you to once again feel grounded... settled.

→ **EG/ tree....children...**

--for a tree to grow healthily it needs to have good roots...storms
--in Mexico...(HUGE tree – explain)

Spiritually this is true as well...

--our lives need to be rooted...rooted in Jesus Christ...
--vs. 3 says in Christ “*are hidden all of the treasures of wisdom and knowledge*”

When the Christian comes to know Christ...dedicates himself to discovering that wisdom and knowledge...

--he begins to grow...as he looks for answers in the word of God
--as he bases his life on the truths found there...
--as he discovers the wonder of following Christ

→**the X becomes grounded...rooted.. more and more solid**

As Xs we need to be very careful who we listen to...not to be persuaded

--so many ways that Satan is attacking....
--even within Christian circles....
--to be able to distinguish 辨别 & think clearly (not just new Xs)

When the storms of life come--when difficulties and trials come ...(which they will...)

--when we are confronted with wrong thinking...
--when people that oppose what we believe...

--a person who is rooted in Christ...will not be uprooted...bent yes...
EG/ hurricane and palm trees

Not only are we to be rooted...but another metaphor (比喻) is used here...that is TO BE BUILT UP...

--who is the one who does the building→ it is not us is it?...IT'S CHRIST!!!

- 1) He is the one who has called us and brought us to Himself...
- 2) He is the one who shapes our lives ...every facet of it...
- 3) He is faithful even when we fail

What we are called to is an utter dependency on Jesus Christ!

Ephesians 3: 17, 18 *And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.*

When we know that love...what kind of people will we be?

--thankful people...(look at vs 6&7 – READ)

When we know just how much we have been forgiven

--those who have been forgiven much—LOVE MUCH (Luke 7)
--Jesus said that speaking of the prostitute who came

B&S.....Whether you have lived in Mexico as a cartel member...

--if you have been a drunk or a prostitute on the street...
--or... if you lived a “normal” life...even if you have grown up in the church...
→ **Let me say this clearly→you have been forgiven MUCH!! (we have....)**

If you have been called to be a child of God this _____...if you know that your sin...

--you have received the greatest gift that anyone can receive...

The word to describe our thankfulness is “abounding in”...spilling over

--Psalm 23... “my cup runs over” (我的福杯满溢)
--over and over...that is what God is doing....(beautiful picture)

When we look at our lives, that is the reality isn't it?

--as the church in Canada...we have been given so much
--churches...families...children...
--when we stop and think about it, we have been blessed beyond measure...

At times, when we are honest... we can focus on what we don't have...

--what we would like different in our life...
--I would be happy if only _____ would change...happen

In your own life – what are you known for? When people think of _____ - what qualities do they think of?

Colossians 3:17 *Whatever you do, in word or deed, do **everything** in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

It doesn't say...whenever we feel like it...sometimes...

→IN Whatever we do....
→For EVERYTHING God gives to us!!!
(that is something that we need to ask God for—a thankful heart)

That is how God desires that we live before him...

- 1) Let's remember what we have received...
- 2) Let's walk faithfully, rooted and built up in Christ
Let's be thankful for all that we have been given....

