

## 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 lik  
--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, <sup>18</sup> 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, <sup>19</sup> 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....

