

THE BOOK OF COLOSSIANS

“How to Walk in Christ”

Colossians 2:6, 7

Backtrack

1. Take a look for yourself. The first chapter of this letter was written by Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit, and came from a Roman prison (4:10, 18).
2. After an extended introduction (1:1-8), a remarkable prayer is recorded (1:9-14). Then there is an extremely important section on the person and work of Christ (1:15-23) followed by an explanation of the church as the body of Christ (1:24-27).
3. Make no mistake about it -- Paul has one message: CHRIST. In Him “are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” (1:28-2:3). Paul is encouraged that the Colossians, though peppered with misleading reasoning and persuasive speech, kept an ordered discipline and stood fast in doctrine (2:4, 5).
4. The present section of the letter closes with a strong exhortation to use and enjoy all that believers have in Christ. Remember: the joy of your salvation is always its strength.

Consider the following parts of the exhortation:

1. Its BASIS v. 6
 - a. Retrospectively. This is clearly set out in the words “as therefore.” What forceful particles. They admit of an actual happening and attention is patently drawn to it.
 - b. Permanently. The aorist active indicative form of the verb “ye have received” teaches a decisive permanent decision to receive. The plural pronoun includes all at Colosse. The prefixed preposition to the verb stem indicates the Colossians actually received to themselves (alongside of themselves) the object of the verb, i.e. “Christ Jesus the Lord.”
 - c. Personally. “Christ” is initially indicated. This is the Greek term for the Hebrew Messiah, hence the Colossians “received” the Messianic character of Jesus. The name “Jesus” avers His Saviourhood. His incarnation is latent to the name and His substitutionary work at Calvary. Interestingly, He is also referred to as “the” Lord. Both His identity with the “Jehovah” of the O.T. and His role as Sovereign are conveyed. Let no one diminish the Person of Christ Jesus the Lord. Make no mockery of Who He is according to Biblical nomenclature.

2. Its CONTENT v. 6

a. Verbally. The present active imperative form is significant. It is fine to “receive” Christ, but this must be followed by a development. The “talk” (v. 6a) is expected to have a concomitant “walk.” The present tense expresses continuous action. A “belief” without a “behaviour” is foreign to Biblical Christianity. Forget NOT this command.

b. Prepositionally. Twice in this context the phrase “in Him” is used. This is walking in His ways and manifesting the fullness of His character and power. Christ is to be all and the believer nothing.

3. Its ACCOMPANIMENTS v. 7

a. “Rooted.” This verb is a perfect passive participle supporting the imperative form “walk.” “Having been rooted” by a work of God allows one to properly respond to the command to “walk.” Note that inasmuch as the “rooting” is perfect tense, the doctrine of eternal security is clearly understood. What God does, He does forever (Eccles. 3:14).

b. “Built up.” The figure of a tree is implicit in the verb “rooted.” Here the thought is a building, but primarily the foundation. This is clear from the prefixed preposition to the verb. Constancy of building and reinforcing the foundation are taught by the present tense. The work of the Holy Spirit is evident in that the passive voice is employed.

c. “Established.” Continually being made strong by God’s mighty power is the force of the present passive participle. This is in reference to “the” faith. That a body of truth is indicated cannot really be doubted.

Conclusion

The letter tells that Epaphras was the Lord’s messenger with the “truth” at Colossae (1:7). The believers “learned” from him. They “received” his message. But note: they were “taught.” This aorist passive verb gathers everything that is included here (vv. 6, 7) and affirms how the Colossian church got its information. Would to God there were people who want “to be taught. Too frequently there are no students to learn! The Colossians were really ideal believers. Beyond having been taught, they “abounded” (present active participle) in the blessed thought of thanksgiving. “Thanksgiving” is mentioned six times in this letter (1:3, 12; 3:15, 17; 4:2; here). Abound in thanksgiving and you will put to flight doubt and spiritual delusion. Brother, sister: walk and do so having been rooted, continually being built up and being established. That’s the way you have been taught from Scripture. Do it with lots of thanksgiving.