

Theme: Having received Jesus Christ as Lord, we are called to have a flourishing, growing walk with Him.

I. Intro – Josh Learning to Walk

- A. A joy watching him learn to walk
- B. But it is a lot of work for him to learn!
- C. But it is critical for him to develop!
- D. Our Christian lives are like that - we must learn to walk

II. The Basis - Receiving Christ the Lord

- A. A new section - built on the old
 - 1. So then (v6) - building on earlier part of letter
 - 2. Live and four participles - 1:10-12; 2:6-7
 - 3. Both - an agricultural metaphor & end with thanks
 - 4. Clearly building this section on first part
- B. As you received - our ground in Christ (v6)
 - 1. Received - aorist looking back to beginning of Christian life
 - 2. Normally 'received' tradition - but here Jesus!
 - 3. Contrast with mere traditions of men (v8)
- C. Christ the Lord - the Lordship of Jesus Christ over all
 - 1. Reminding they received Jesus **the Lord**
 - 2. Jesus the Lord in 1st part of letter
 - a. He is the Creator and Redeemer (1:15-20)
 - b. He is Supreme over Old & New Creation (1:15-20)

- c. He is the mystery of God & hope of glory (1:27; 2:2)
 - d. He is treasure house of all wisdom & knowledge (2:2-3)
 - e. He is the One from Whom creation flows & to Whom it returns!
- 3. This is the One we have received - Christ the Lord
 - 4. Any other Jesus is not the real Jesus

III. The Call - A Growing Walk in Christ

- A. The call - our responsibility in Christ - walk in Him
 - 1. Live (walk) - the first imperative in the letter
 - 2. There will be 29 more imperatives in the letter!
 - 3. All these commands are in light of being in Christ
- B. The nature of the call - how we walk in Him
 - 1. It is a walk rooted in what Christ has already done
 - a. Continue to live in Him (v6)
 - 1. Continue not in Greek, but conveys the idea
 - 2. Present imperative - continue to live
 - 3. Imperative (command) rooted in indicative (what Christ did)
 - b. Rooted - perfect tense - having been rooted
 - 1. We have been placed in Christ - rooted!
 - 2. This secures our future growth - our new nature
 - 2. We are to be built up in Him
 - a. Metaphor shifts from horticulture to construction
 - b. Now move to present tense - continue building

- c. Like 1 Cor 3 - Christ foundation, we must build
 - d. But we always build in or on Christ - never shift
3. We are to be strengthened/confirmed in the faith
- a. Possible metaphor shift to legal
 - b. Real idea is 'confirmed'; guaranteed; steady
 - c. Confirmed in THE faith - not my personal belief
 - d. We must continually learn and grow in truth
 - e. We become steady in face of storms of life
 - f. This will require effort - like learning to walk!
4. We are to overflow with thankfulness
- a. Same way that Paul ended his prayer in 1:12
 - b. Thanks - 6x in Colossians (1:3; 1:12; 2:7; 3:15; 3:17; 4:2)
 - c. Rooted, built, strengthened - passive - God's work
 - d. Overflowing thankfulness - active - WE do this
 - e. Calvin quote on thankfulness

IV. Applying the Word

- A. Have you received Christ the Lord?
- 1. This is where everything begins!
 - 2. We must receive Christ THE LORD
 - 3. He does not come to play second fiddle - He rules
 - 4. Many want Christ the Savior, Priest - and no more

- 5. We must take Him as King, Lord as well
- 6. Have you?

B. Are we growing in our walk with Christ?

- 1. How unnatural if a baby never grew!
- 2. Yet many Christians seem to never grow
- 3. We never learn to walk with Him
- 4. Are we present being built up - growing?
- 5. Are we confirmed - do we know the faith?
- 6. Or are we spiritual couch potatoes?

C. Are we thankful?

- 1. We live in a cynical age - kills thankfulness
- 2. We live in an advertising age - institutional coveting
- 3. Are we grateful for what we have been given?
- 4. Do we speak gratitude - or complaint?
- 5. Do we OVERFLOW with thankfulness?

D. The Lord's Supper - overflowing with thankfulness

A Growing Walk With Christ

Colossians 2:6-7
 April 22, 2012
 Communion
 Deuteronomy 1:11

We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you,
Colossians 1:3

giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the
saints in the kingdom of light. Colossians 1:12

rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and
overflowing with thankfulness. Colossians 2:7

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were
called to peace. And be thankful. Colossians 3:15

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord
Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:17

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. Colossians 4:2

Ingratitude is most often the reason we are deprived of the light of the Gospel, as
well as of other gifts of God - John Calvin, Commentary on Colossians