

Bible Study

January 22, 2020

Kingdom Now Church

Snellville, Ga

Excerpt from Breaking the Cycle

One of the most unrealized promises of the New Testament is found in Colossians 2:10, when Paul boldly announced to those struggling believers, “You are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power”. When a person feels lacking, inadequate, or incomplete, nothing seems farther from reality than this. But freedom from these feelings of inadequacy are a part of our heritage in Christ!

As with many New Covenant realities, there was a tremendous gap between what Jesus had given and what the people were experiencing. The Colossian believers were like most people. They had no concept of what it meant to experience the finished work of Jesus. They did not realize that His death, burial and resurrection insured them a life free from the penalty of sin.

They didn't know that all the promises of God were assured for those who believe on the resurrected Jesus as Lord and Savior. Because they were not experiencing the reality of the finished work of Jesus, they became susceptible to "circumstance theology."

Circumstance theology is simply the doctrinal position we create to justify or explain our current circumstance.

The Colossian believers had been influenced by teachers and prophets who brought them back under the slavery of dead works. They no longer saw Christ as enough to qualify them for all the promises of God. They felt they were open prey for the devil if they did anything wrong. They actually thought they could lose their authority as a believer by failing to live up to the standards set by these so-called teachers.

They surrendered their faith to one of the most subtle, devastating, and controlling emotions known to man. They became enslaved to the sense of lack. This sense of need and desperation made them vulnerable to the manipulation of every type of false doctrine. They didn't lose the life and power of God when they accepted this feeling of lack; rather, they alienated themselves from the supernatural life of God that was in them.

A believer should never feel a sense of lack. It should be foreign to our emotions and contrary to our new nature in Christ. We should feel complete and whole. We should never be driven by the feelings of separation created by lack. No matter how real those feelings may be, no matter how undeserving we feel, it is not real! It is a vain imagination. It is a lie! It is a lie that has been used to manipulate mankind for thousands of years. It is the most powerful lie that one could believe.

The Colossians had to be reminded of their relationship with Christ. Once we understand the magnitude of that relationship, we are less vulnerable to fall into negative cycles.

Characteristics of our Relationship with Christ (2:6-7)

"⁶ **So then**, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness." (2:6-7)

- ⁶ **So then**, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord,

When we have received Christ Jesus as Lord, we have received freedom.

John 8:36

“Christian freedom does not mean being free to do as we like; it means being free to do as we ought.” *William Barclay*

**To claim freedom in Christ
and bondage to anything else
is a contradiction of terms.**

Free indeed means

truly free

Free in reality,

Free in point of fact, as opposed to what is pretended, fictitious, false, conjectural.

"⁶ **So then**, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, **continue to live in him**,

Galatians 5:1

Continue in him by
Being rooted

Let your roots grow down in him. NLT

Rooted in Christ

- to cause to strike root,
- to strengthen with roots,
- to render firm,
- to fix,
- establish,
- cause a person or a thing to be thoroughly grounded

“Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.” NLT

Continue in Him by:

Rooted and built up in him

Being Built up in Christ. Paul uses a word from the construction trades to describe their growth: "to engage in a building process of personal and corporate development, edify, build up, build on."

Continue in Him by

Being Rooted

Built Up

Stablished in the faith as you were taught

⁷ rooted and built up in him, stablished in
the faith as you were taught,

Stablished in the faith

- to make firm, establish, confirm, make sure

- ⁶ **So then**, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, **and overflowing with thankfulness.**" (2:6-7)