

What Does It Take to Walk the Believer's Walk?

Colossians 2:4-7

BGT ⁴ Τοῦτο λέγω, ἵνα μηδεὶς ὑμᾶς παραλογίζηται ἐν πιθανολογίᾳ. ⁵ εἰ γὰρ καὶ τῆ σαρκὶ ἄπειμι, ἀλλὰ τῷ πνεύματι σὺν ὑμῖν εἰμι, χαίρων καὶ βλέπων ὑμῶν τὴν τάξιν καὶ τὸ στερέωμα τῆς εἰς Χριστὸν πίστεως ὑμῶν. ⁶ Ὡς οὖν παρελάβετε τὸν Χριστὸν Ἰησοῦν τὸν κύριον, ἐν αὐτῷ περιπατεῖτε, ⁷ ἐρριζωμένοι καὶ ἐποικοδομούμενοι ἐν αὐτῷ καὶ βεβαιοῦμενοι τῇ πίστει καθὼς ἐδιδάχθητε, περισσεύοντες ἐν εὐχαριστίᾳ.

NKJ ⁴ Now this I say lest anyone should deceive you with persuasive words. ⁵ For though I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your *good* order and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ. ⁶ As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, ⁷ rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.

I. Paul Shares His _____ for the Colossians

A. True knowledge and understanding are essential...

"Now this I say..." (Τοῦτο λέγω)

1:10 – "filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual understanding"

1:10 – "increasing in the knowledge of God"

1:23 – "if indeed you continue in the faith"

1:26 – "the mystery...which...now has been revealed to His saints"

1:27 – "to them God willed to make known what are the riches of his glory"

1:28 – "Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man"

2:1 – "[attaining] to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God"

2:2 – "in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge"

B. ...To avoid being deceived by persuasive arguments

"...lest anyone should deceive you with persuasive words." (ἵνα μηδεὶς ὑμᾶς παραλογίζηται ἐν πιθανολογίᾳ.)

1. The danger of deception is _____

James 1:22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving (παραλογιζόμενοι) yourselves.

2. Deception is _____ – it *will* happen, unless... (it even happened in the Garden of Eden!)

3. Deception comes through _____ arguments – listen long enough, and you will be persuaded

Why is it so important to be careful who you listen to and what you listen to or read? (Watershed; Eval)

Acts 20:29-30 – false teachers will arise, desiring to gain a following, even from within the church

2 Tim 4:3-4 – people will be drawn away by heaping to themselves teachers, having itching ears

Heb 3:12-13 – people will be deceived unless they surround themselves with exhorting believers

C. _____ → _____ → _____ – any other focus is dangerous, detrimental, and deceptive

II. Paul Reveals His _____ for the Colossians

"For though I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing"

- Leadership responsibility is not diminished by geography – we carry ongoing responsibility wherever we are at
- Leadership responsibility requires ongoing observation & communication of what is observed – continual input
- Leaders rejoice when they see the learning and living of the truth by those they lead – make a leader rejoice!

III. Paul Observes and Delights in the _____ of the Colossians

"rejoicing to see your [good] order and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ."

(χαίρων καὶ βλέπων ὑμῶν τὴν τάξιν καὶ τὸ στερέωμα τῆς εἰς Χριστὸν πίστεως ὑμῶν.)

^{NAU} ...rejoicing to see your good discipline and the stability of your faith in Christ.

^{NIV} ...delight to see how orderly you are and how firm your faith in Christ is.

A. Order – _____ – _____

1. Learning the truth

2. Functioning as a _____ – everyone working together, though in different positions

B. Steadfastness – _____ – _____

1. Order brings firmness; structure brings stability

2. Disorder or disinformation bring instability

3. Stability is not the _____ of trouble, but the ability to rightly respond in trouble when it does come

IV. Paul Exhorts the Colossians to Continue Walking in the Lord

A. What Commenced at Our _____

“As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord” (Ὡς οὖν παρελάβετε τὸν Χριστὸν Ἰησοῦν τὸν κύριον)

How did you receive the Lord? (John 1:12) – by belief – taking God at His Word

B. Is to Continue in Our _____

“so walk in Him” (ἐν αὐτῷ περιπατεῖτε)

How are you to be walking (living your life)? – by belief – taking God at His Word (Rom 1:17, etc.)

The _____ Lifestyle – 3:7 “in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.” (see 3:5-7)

The _____ Lifestyle

- 1:10 – that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing [Him], being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; (**intentional, worthy, God-pleasing, fruitful, knowledge-increasing**)
- 2:6 As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, (**faith-filled, learning**)
- 4:5 Walk in wisdom toward those [who are] outside, redeeming the time. (**wise, strategic**)

Imperative Form of περιπατέω (peripateo)

John 12:35 Then Jesus said to them, “A little while longer the light is with you. **Walk** while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you; he who walks in darkness does not know where he is going.

Gal 5:16 I say then: **Walk** in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. (πνεύματι περιπατεῖτε)

Eph 5:2 And **walk** in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us... (περιπατεῖτε ἐν ἀγάπῃ)

Eph 5:8 For you were once darkness, but now [you are] light in the Lord. **Walk** as children of light (ὡς τέκνα φωτὸς περιπατεῖτε)

Eph 5:15 See then that you **walk** circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, (ἀκριβῶς πῶς περιπατεῖτε)

Col 2:6 As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so **walk** in Him, (ἐν αὐτῷ περιπατεῖτε)

Col 4:5 **Walk** in wisdom toward those *who are* outside, redeeming the time. (Ἐν σοφίᾳ περιπατεῖτε)

V. Paul’s Explanation of How We Are to Be Walking (What Is Involved in Walking) in Christ

A. Being _____ – Having been rooted (only here and Eph 3:17 “**rooted** and grounded in love”)

1. Perfect _____ – something required at the beginning to enable true, healthy growth (Lu 8:13)
2. Perfect – past tense with continuing results – essential basis to build on (ABCs; musical notes)
3. Heb 5:12—6:3 (5:12) “first principles,” “milk”; (6:1) “elementary [principles],” “foundation”
4. This is the opposite of the “Basic Principles of the World” (2:8, 20)
5. Our Plan – our very structure here at Northridge is designed to ground you in key truths
 - a. **Firm Foundations** – key chronology of the Bible that all faith and practice can build upon
 - b. **Nuts & Bolts of Salvation** – to root you in the truths that are absolutely essential to understanding and sharing salvation, and to clear away the confusion that is clouding and crippling believers and churches today.
 - c. **One Another Discipleship** – key instruction to help you help others, as God desires (3:16)
6. Requires us to be present, involved, & learning until we master the basics, and then to use them

B. Being _____ – While being built up in Him

1. Present _____ – something done to us on an ongoing basis (we cannot do it, a continual need)
2. Continually being built up in the Lord – we have an *ongoing* need for *ongoing* building up
3. Requires us to be continually present, actively involved, and purposefully learning

C. Being _____ – While being confirmed (verified) in the faith, just as you have been taught

1. Present _____ – something done to us on an ongoing basis (we cannot do it, a continual need)
2. Requires us to be continually present, actively involved, and purposefully learning
3. Walking involves ongoing living guided by ongoing learning – measuring our actions by the truth

D. Being _____ – While **abounding** in thanksgiving

1. Present _____ – something done by the believer continuously (4:2 – key part of prayer; Phil 4:6)
2. Eph 5:3-4 – thankfulness replaces many vices as a way of life, replacing a lifestyle of discontent, indulgence, complaining, & self-centeredness with a focus on what God has done & is doing.