

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

## Colossians 2:4-7

- BGT** <sup>4</sup> Τοῦτο λέγω, ἵνα μηδεὶς ὑμᾶς παραλογίζηται ἐν πιθανολογίᾳ. <sup>5</sup> εἰ γὰρ καὶ τῆ σαρκὶ ἄπειμι, ἀλλὰ τῷ πνεύματι σὺν ὑμῖν εἶμι, χαίρων καὶ βλέπων ὑμῶν τὴν τάξιν καὶ τὸ στερέωμα τῆς εἰς Χριστὸν πίστεως ὑμῶν. <sup>6</sup> Ὡς οὖν παρελάβετε τὸν Χριστὸν Ἰησοῦν τὸν κύριον, ἐν αὐτῷ περιπατεῖτε, <sup>7</sup> ἑρριζωμένοι καὶ ἐποικοδομούμενοι ἐν αὐτῷ καὶ βεβαιούμενοι τῇ πίστει καθὼς ἐδιδάχθητε, περισσεύοντες ἐν εὐχαριστίᾳ.
- NKJ** <sup>4</sup> Now this I say lest anyone should deceive you with persuasive words. <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, <sup>7</sup> 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 Concern 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 real

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

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

3. Deception comes through false 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. Fact → Faith → Feeling – any other focus is dangerous, detrimental, and deceptive

### II. Paul Reveals His Heart 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 Growth 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.)

<sup>NAU</sup> ...rejoicing to see your good discipline and the stability of your faith in Christ.

<sup>NIV</sup> ...delight to see how orderly you are and how firm your faith in Christ is.

#### A. Order – Structure – Function

1. Learning the truth

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

#### B. Steadfastness – Stability – Firmness

1. Order brings firmness; structure brings stability

2. Disorder or disinformation bring instability

3. Stability is not the lack 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 Conversion

“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 Conduct

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

##### The New 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*)

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#### 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)

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

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

1. Perfect Passive – 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 Grown – While being built up in Him

1. Present Passive – 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 Guided – While being confirmed (verified) in the faith, just as you have been taught

1. Present Passive – 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 Grateful – While abounding in thanksgiving

1. Present Active – 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.