

COMPLETE IN CHRIST

COLOSSIANS 2:6-7

WELCOMING AND WALKING WITH JESUS



FIRST BYRON CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

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INTRODUCTION

Problem

If you've ever suffered from any long-term illness, you learn many lessons along the way. You learn what makes you better and what makes you worse.

Take diabetes, for example. There's a figure that's measured at every clinic visit, it's called HbA1c. If it has come down, the medical staff will sit down and ask "What did you do differently to make this improvement?" so that they can identify the causes of the improvement and keep doing what they were doing.

The basic idea is, "Whatever you've been doing, let's keep doing it. As you've begun, so continue." The last thing you'll hear is, "OK, this and that change has led to improvement, so let's do the opposite now!"

The same idea applies to progress in our spiritual lives. We want to ask, "How did I begin to know Jesus?" so that we then say, "As I began, so let me continue." The worst conclusion we can come to is, "OK, I began with Jesus this way, so let's do the exact opposite now."

Effects

What would the opposite look like?

- We began rooted in Christ, but we go on by pulling our roots out of this soil!
- We began on the foundation of Christ, but we go on moving away from this foundation.
- We began by building with Christ, but we go on by building with self-made bricks.
- We began by overflowing with thankfulness, but we go on by complaining.

It's ridiculous isn't it? We began by welcoming Christ, but we go on by walking away from Christ? Of course not.

Solution?

How then do we grow spiritually. How do we go on in the faith? We go on in faith as we began in faith. It's that simple. As we began, so we go on. We're going to look at how we began with Christ in order to learn how to go on with Christ.

CONTEXT

Colossians 1:1-2:5 can be viewed as an introduction to the rest of the letter. Colossians 2:6 has been described as the theme verse of Colossians, the verse that Paul unpacks in the rest of the letter. It's one of

Paul's five "therefores" or "conclusions" (2:6, 16, 20; ; 3:5, 12).

This one is basically saying "As you began with the Christ, I've just described in 1:1-2:5, therefore continue in the same way."

This was contrary to the Gnostic heretics who were saying the opposite, "Yes, you came to know Christ this way, but if you want to go on with Christ, if you want to know more, you have to try something different." Paul is adamantly opposed to this.

As we can go wrong in the same way, let's use these verses to discover, "How did we begin?" so that we can learn how to continue.



**How did we begin?
We began by welcoming Jesus.**



1. WE WELCOMED JESUS (6A)

(6) As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord (6a).

The word "received" here is used to describe the welcoming of a person or the receiving of a tradition. Both senses are true in this case. Here, "tradition" means the truth of God faithfully handed down through the years. The Colossians welcomed a person by receiving a tradition. So how did the Colossians welcome this person and receive this tradition?

They welcomed him as Christ

"Christ" is the Greek word for "Messiah" or "the anointed one." It's an official title that refers to the Old Testament promises of a God-anointed and God-appointed prophet, priest, and king. The Colossians therefore welcomed Christ as the fulfillment of the Old Testament, as the prophet who spoke truth, the priest who forgave sin, and the king who ruled over life.

They welcomed him as Jesus

"Jesus" is the name given to Christ when he became man. It's a personal name which appears in the first chapter of the New Testament and means "Savior" for he shall save his people from their sins (Matt. 1:21). The Colossians therefore welcomed Christ as their Savior.

They welcomed him as Lord

If "Christ" is rooted in the Old Testament, and "Jesus" is rooted in the New Testament, then "Lord" is more about how to relate to Jesus Christ after he returned to heaven. The Colossians recognized Jesus as having all authority in heaven and in earth (Matt. 28:18), and bowed to him in humble worshipful submission. It's important to note that "Savior" is only mentioned twice in the book of Acts, but "Lord" is used over 100 times. The Colossians welcomed Jesus's lordship over their lives.

APPLICATION



Have you welcomed Jesus in this way? Have you welcomed him into your life as Christ, as Jesus, as Lord? Have you welcomed him as the fulfiller of the Old Testament, the center of the New Testament, and the Lord of the post-New Testament world?

If not, welcome him today. Why would you keep him waiting any longer? Reach out with the arms of faith to welcome him? He will never turn you away. He won't walk away. As soon as you stretch out your heart to him, he comes. In fact, if you want to welcome him, he is already there!



Remember how you welcomed Christ into your life. Remember how you began. Remember how you saw him as the fulfiller of the Old Testament, as the Savior in the New, and as the Lord of the whole post-New Testament world.

Remember the way he ministered to you as a prophet, as a priest, and as a King.

Remember how he began to save you from sin's penalty, power, presence, and pleasure.

Remember how you loved to confess him as Lord of Lords and King of Kings!

PRAISE HIM AS YOU REMEMBER HIM!

WE WELCOME JESUS BECAUSE HE FIRST WELCOMED US.



So, if that's how we welcomed Jesus, how do we walk with Jesus?
Exactly the same way!



2. WE WALK IN JESUS (6B-7)

(6)...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.

They walk as they welcomed

The most important word in these verses is the two-letter word “so.” As you welcomed Jesus, SO walk in Jesus. The way we go on with Christ must mirror the way we came to Christ.

They walk as a lifestyle

The second most important word is “walk.” This is the word for a lifestyle, a consistent and continuous pattern of living. It’s actually the first imperative (command) in the letter. He’s spent all the previous verses with indicatives about Christ, facts about Christ and the Colossian’s relationship to him. Then, on the basis of these indicatives, he issues his first imperative: “walk.”

They walk in Jesus

The third most important word is “in.” We might have expected “with.” Walk **with** Christ. But instead he says, “Walk **in** Christ.” How do we walk **in** a person? It’s an expression that describes an area, a sphere of living, an atmosphere, or an environment. They were to live in the area of Christ the sphere of Christ, the atmosphere of Christ, the environment of Christ. Christ was to be the air they breathe. They were to walk around in Christ. They were to walk around his names – Christ Jesus the Lord. Explore and enjoy his Old Testament prophecies, his New Testament salvation, and his post-New Testament lordship. These were the areas you began. Stay there and explore them more and more. Paul then explains what that walking in Christ looks like in more detail.

Christ is our soil: We walk in Jesus by being “rooted” in Jesus. Put deeper and wider roots into Jesus for a stronger and higher tree.

Christ is our foundation: We walk in Jesus by being “built up” on Jesus. We don’t ever move away from this foundation if we want to be built up spiritually.

Christ is our seal: We walk in Jesus by being “established” in the faith. This word means “confirmed and settled” and stems from the legal process of sealing a legal document so it can never be changed.

Christ is our wine: We walk in Jesus by “abounding in it with thanksgiving.” The word “abounding” is used for an overflowing cup. Our degree of thankfulness reveals our Christology. The cults will never have any success with thankful Christians. Paul mentions “thanksgiving” seven times in this letter. We never cease to be amazed or stunned at what Christ has done.



APPLICATION

♥ In the first point, I encouraged believers to remember how they began. Why? Because that's the guide for how to continue. As you began, go on. As you welcomed Christ, walk in Christ. Use your beginning as a guide to continuing.

♥ If you ever get tired of the old truths that brought you to Christ, you are in great danger. We must never outgrow Christ. Even his familiar names—Christ, Jesus, Lord—grow ever bigger, wider, and deeper in our minds and hearts.

♥ Don't long for the novel. Pray for more understanding of what you know. It's not start here, but progress there. It's progress as you started. Progress is not moving on past Christ but moving deeper into Christ.

♥ Progress is the mark of a Christian. "Stagnant Christian" is a contradiction. Static is not an option. Stagnation is dangerous. Progress is safe.

♥ "We praise you Lord Jesus Christ. You are our soil, our foundation, our seal, and our wine."

**CHRISTOLOGY IS NOT AN OPTIONAL EXTRA,
BUT A SOURCE OF SAFETY AND MATURITY**

Jesus I Need You

Hope be my anthem
Lord when the world has fallen quiet
You stand beside me
Give me a song in the night

And Jesus I need You
Every moment I need You
Hear now this grace-bought-heart sing out
Your praise forever

Beauty for ashes
You find the weak and contrite heart
Shoulder its burdens
And carry it into the light

And Jesus I need You
Every moment I need You
Hear now this grace-bought-heart sing out
Your praise forever



We walk with Jesus by remembering and mirroring how we welcomed Jesus



CONCLUSION



FURTHER STUDY

Online Articles

- [Walking with God Through Pain and Suffering](#), by Joni Eareckson Tada
- [After 50 Years in a Wheelchair, I still Walk with Jesus](#) by Joni Eareckson Tada
- [Walking in Christ Jesus \(Ligonier\)](#).

Books

- [Walking with Jesus Through his Word](#) by Dennis Johnson
- [The Insanity of Obedience: Walking with Jesus in Tough Places](#) by Nik Ripkin
- [A Walk with God](#) by R C Sproul

Discussion Questions

- Describe how you welcomed Christ.
- Describe how Christ welcomed you.
- What have you learned about these names in the past year: Christ? Jesus? Lord?
- How is your walk with Jesus today? What is hindering your walk with Jesus? What is helping?
- How can you walk more **in** Jesus?
- Write out prayers and praises to Christ focused on him being your soil, your foundation, your seal, and your wine.
- How can you stop yourself stagnating and keep progressing?
- Who in your life needs to hear this message and why? How will you get it to them?

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Although we can begin walking with Jesus, we can walk away from him

Biblical answer?



We welcomed Jesus

- As Christ
- As Jesus
- As Lord

WE WELCOME JESUS BECAUSE HE FIRST WELCOMED US

**We welcomed Jesus.
How do we walk with Jesus?**

COMPLETE IN CHRIST

COLOSSIANS 2:6-7

WELCOMING AND WALKING WITH JESUS

PROGRESS IS NOT MOVING PAST CHRIST BUT MOVING DEEPER INTO CHRIST.



AS
You welcomed Jesus
SO
Walk with Jesus



We walk in Jesus

- Walk as we welcomed
- Walk as a lifestyle
- Walk in Jesus
 - Our soil
 - Our foundation
 - Our seal
 - Our wine

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Action?



Jesus I Need You

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