

PREACHING THE OLD PATHS PT 8

Pastor Jose F. Maldonado

Hillburn Drive Grace Baptist Church

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“Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein. 17 Also I set watchmen over you, saying, Harken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, We will not hearken. 18 Therefore hear, ye nations, and know, O congregation, what is among them. 19 Hear, O earth: behold, I will bring evil upon this people, even the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not hearkened unto my words, nor to my law, but rejected it.” Jer 6:16-19.”

I would like to continue this morning on the subject of: “Preaching the Old Paths.” We have set forth before you 6 of the many truths found in the Bible.

- 1. To preach the OLD Paths is to PREACH the TRUTH about God.**
- 2. To preach the OLD Paths is to PREACH the TRUTH about Man.**
- 3. To preach the OLD Paths is to PREACH the TRUTH about Salvation.**
- 4. To preach the OLD Paths is to PREACH the TRUTH about Christ.**
- 5. To preach the OLD Paths is to PREACH the TRUTH about Word of God.**
- 6. To preach the OLD Paths is to PREACH the TRUTH about Doctrine.**

This is our 8th message on our subject of Preaching the Old Paths and our 4th on **To preach the OLD Paths is to PREACH the TRUTH about Jesus Christ.** If you recall in our first study on Christ we presented the Truth of Christ from the perspective of 4 questions:

1. Matthew 16:13: *Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?*
2. Matthew 16:15: *But whom say ye that I am?*
3. Matthew 22:42: *What think ye of Christ?*
4. John 9:36: *Who is he?*

If a sinner is to be saved and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, you must know WHO HE IS! The Word of God declares our Lord Jesus Christ to be, the Son of God as well as God the Son, that is, the Bible so clearly teaches Christ in the fullness of His Humanity and in the fullness of His Deity, that Jesus Christ is not only man, but God of very God. Or as we are told in verse 9, *“For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.”* The Bible is the RECORD that God has given of His Son, 1 John 5:11, *“And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. 13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.”*

The problem is that in 2 John 7-11, we are told that *“For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. 8 Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. 9 Whosoever transgresseth, and*

abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. 10 If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: 11 For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.” Therefore the importance of abiding in the in the Doctrine of Christ, so **To preach the OLD Paths is to PREACH the TRUTH about Jesus Christ** and therefore to preach the TRUTH about Jesus Christ is to ABIDE IN THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST!

Two weeks ago I said that I would like to consider the book of Colossians to speak on the Doctrine of Christ and that we would hi-light chapters 1 & 2. The book of Colossians is a glorious rich book of our Lord Jesus Christ as Paul often uses the terms “In Him,” and “In Christ.”

The whole essence of the book of Colossians is glorious set in His PREEMINENCE! Col.1:18 again, “*And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.*” I have set forth 4 things regarding the DOCTRINE OF CHRIST from Colossians 1 & 2:

- I. **The Similitude of Christ.** (Col.1:15-17)
- II. **The Supremacy of Christ.** (Col.1:18)
- III. **The Sufficiency of Christ.** (Col.2:1-7 &10)
- IV. **The Sovereignty of Christ.** (Col.2:9)

We have already seen first 2 points on the Similitude and Supremacy of Christ and this week we shall continue on my third point on the Sufficiency of Christ and then Lord willing we will conclude our 4th point on the Sovereignty of Christ next week. We also outlined for you the first 10 verses of Colossians 2:

1. The Determination (Verses 1-3)
2. The Discernment (Verse 4)
3. The Dedication (Verses 5-7)
4. The Deception (Verse 8)
5. The Divinity (verse 9)
6. The Declaration (verse 10)

No doubt that in these verses Paul is exhorting the Colossian church to continue to persevere in following Christ. In verses 1-3 we see Paul encouraging and exhorting with such determination to stay the course in following Christ. As a matter of fact Paul agonizes over them and the church at Laodicea also. Paul struggled and agonized in his heart for these brethren because of the extensive heresy that was creeping into the church. In verse 8 Paul warns against the problem of human philosophy, “*Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.*” So we see that various humanistic teachings had greatly afflicted the church, you would think Paul

is writing about the 21st century church where many churches have invited the ways of the world into the church in the aspect of mass pragmatism. Then you had the problem of Gnosticism that had greatly influence the church, also along with the Judiazers that were bringing some into the bondage of legalism. Then there was the problem of mysticism in the worshipping of angels in verses 18 & 19. Then you had the issue of asceticism and then the problem of false teachers who sought to beguile some of them with enticing words as we see in verse 4, *“And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words.”* Thus I hope you see the struggle and agonizing of Paul for these precious saints.

Notice again verse 1, *“For I would that ye knew **what great conflict** I have for you, and for them at Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh.”* The word basically means to agonize. Paul had a true pastor’s heart as he had a care for the flock in Colossians and in Laodicea as He determined to make sure that these flocks would maintain SOUND DOCTRINE. We saw the application of verses 1-3 in our last sermon under the first point, The Dedication:

Then secondly, the Discernment in verse 4, *“And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words.”* As Paul determines to keep them in the right tract, he warns them to have great spiritual discernment against anyone who would seek to beguile them with enticing words. As though Paul is saying our sufficiency is in Christ, He is the one that keeps our hearts knitted together and where we receive a full understanding to the acknowledgement of the mystery in the our workings of the Father and Son and in Christ where we have a storehouse full of wisdom and knowledge what a treasure.

What a blessing when we consider the treasures of genuine spiritual wisdom that we have in Christ. The question perhaps to be asked is; are you satisfied in Christ? Are you satisfied with the word of God, or are you satisfied with God? When we are not satisfied with this spiritual treasure we have, then we go looking for something to entertain or captivate us. You see having a settle conviction in the sufficiency of Christ dispels all false teachings and deceptions, but when we are not satisfied in Christ and His word we go wondering for something else to satisfy. We must stand upon God’s Word and not be deluded and deceived by persuasive words and or by the secular humanistic wisdom, philosophy.

Notice also the words of the Apostle Paul when he was in Corinth; in Cor.2:1-5 *“And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. 2 For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. 3 And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. 4 And my speech and my preaching **was not with enticing words of man’s wisdom**, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: 5 That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.”*

This is why Paul warned young Timothy in 2 Timothy 4:1-4, *“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; 4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.”*

Again, we see Paul's determination for the brethren at Colossians that they would understand and rejoice in the glorious treasure they had in Christ Jesus and not be misled or beguiled by enticing words and to lay hold of the fact that our Lord Jesus Christ is Sufficient for us in all things. Not only the Determination and the Discernment but also:

In verses 5-7, The Dedication: "*For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ. 6 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: 7 Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.*" No doubt that the Apostle Paul exhorts them to maintain their walk in the Lord Jesus Christ, in other words, because of this great treasure we have in Christ, we must be committed and dedicated to Him, this is our responsibility. If you are convince and have that holy conviction that Christ is your all and all, that is, The Sufficiency of Christ satisfies you and that you are complete in Christ as we are told in verse 10, "*And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power;*" then it is incumbent on you to undertake responsibility in your walk with Christ. If we understand that Christ is object and subject of our faith or if you wish, the author and finisher of our faith, then notice how Paul embodies the aspect of faith and the Lord Jesus Christ as though you cannot separate one from the other. In verse 5 it says, "*...the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.*" In verse 6 he says "*As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him.*" How did we receive Christ? By faith, if we have received Him by faith then we are to walk in Him by faith! Then Paul reminds us that we are rooted and built up in Christ and stablished in the faith and they were taught to practice this for the purpose of abounding in thanksgiving. They had been taught truth and doctrine and they were to maintain that with a practical walk in Christ, in other words you cannot be built up in the faith without doctrine.

Now, lest we forget this epistle was written from prison, Paul was bound in a Roman prison, though his flesh was bound, he was not bound in spirit, therefore he shows his love and concern for them to maintain, their doctrine and practice! Verse 5, "*For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.*" How does Paul know this? I believe because of Epaphras who would convey to Paul in prison the issues in the Colossian church, thus Paul hears of what is happening and with great determination writes this epistle to encourage them in the faith and of the glorious sufficiency they had in Christ and of course the essence of the deity of Christ. No doubt Paul rejoiced in their testimony as he was beholding their order in the steadfastness of their faith and in their good spiritual discipline.

We saw also that the Greek word for steadfastness is '**stereoō**' which means to strengthen and or confirm, it comes from, '**stereos**' which I believe we get our English word steroid, this word means to be solid, stable, it refers to that which is made firm, strong and unchanging and when used in the context it describes the steadfast stability of the Colossians in spite of

the onslaught and attacks from every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness. They were firm and steadfast, they were solid and constant and this is why Paul admonishes them to continue in their faith. Their stability was important to Paul especially also in the midst of mass idolatry and paganism and in the gross immorality of their day.

I would like to repeat what I said a couple weeks ago and that is, how is your faith described? When people speak of your faith, do they speak in terms that your faith is firm and steadfast? The question morning is not, what think ye of Jesus Christ, or what thing ye of the Colossians saints, but what thing ye of Joe Maldonado, what think ye of Ben Latham, what think ye of Leo Lopez or you can put in your name, what think ye of: insert your name, can it be said of you that your faith is steadfast? Or using the whole phrase, "...*beholding your order, and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ,*" when people look at you, that is, when people BEHOLD you, do they behold your order in Christ, that is your discipline in Christ or what do they see? We can speak all day about the past saints in Colossae, but what about the saints at Hillburn Drive Grace Baptist Church? Are we walking in such a manner that shows forth your faith?

Is your faith in Christ this morning or is your faith in the church, in baptism what or who are you trusting this morning? These are very important questions my dear ones. Notice again how Paul qualifies verse 5 by what he says in verse 6 & 7, "*As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: 7 Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.*" Paul says "*As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord ...*" in other words the word therefore here looks back to what he has said in verse 5 about their stable faith. Notice how Paul uses the full title of Christ, Christ Jesus the Lord with the aspect of Him being received by faith. They received Christ who is the Messiah, the Anointed of God and they received Jesus as Savior and they received Jesus as the LORD the Sovereign Potentate, they received not just Jesus, but Christ Jesus the Lord! Christ is received as SAVIOR, as CHRIST and as LORD; this is the essence of our salvation, Jesus Christ the LORD! You cannot separate or divide Christ, His is SAVIOR, HE is Christ, He is LORD, when you receive Him you receive Him as SAVIOR, you receive HIM as CHRIST and you receive HIM as LORD! No doubt this is the essence of LORDSHIP salvation and Paul authenticates their faith as being a true saving justifying faith! If we received Christ as such, our walk is governed by HIM, verse 6 again, "*As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him.*" As we receive by HIM by FAITH we are to walk in HIM by FAITH, that is; Christ is the object of our faith, "*As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord ...*" thus, Christ is to be subjectively experienced in our relationship with HIM, "...*so walk ye in him.*" The end result of this saving justifying faith is seen in verse 7 "*Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.*" The 4 words in this verse; rooted, built, stablished and abounding are called participles in the Greek because they emphasize the subjects participation in the action which equates to a continual action in their faith. We shall look at

all 4 of these words this morning.

1. The first word rooted is the Greek word '**rhizo**' which basically means to become stable by being rooted, that is to be firmly fixed and completely grounded. It is used as a verb here and it is also in the passive voice which means that this solid rooting has been done for you by God's sovereign act of free grace. It is also in the perfect tense which means that the past action has been completed and it continues with an ongoing effect. You see all this happened when we placed our trust on Christ Jesus the LORD! God did the rooting when He saved us. The Apostle Paul when sharing a somewhat familiar truth in Romans 6 puts it this way in Romans 6:5, "*For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection.*" We have been rooted, yea PLANTED TOGETHER with Him in the like of His death and thus we shall be in the likeness of His resurrection. The phrase planted together means to be implanted by birth and thus grown together and united which of course means with Christ! Therefore when applied to Col.2:7 of being rooted in Christ it suggests a life of stability, nourishment that is derived from our Lord Jesus Christ, being "IN HIM" "*Rooted and built up in him...*" As trees roots sink deep into the earth for both stability and nourishment in like manner our faith is rooted deep and nourish in sound doctrine and these roots will hold you fixed upon God. 2 verses in the Psalms stand out to me when speaking of being rooting and planted deeply and firmly in Christ, of course the first 1 is in:
 - Psalm 1:1-3, "*Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be **like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.***" Then the other on in
 - Psalm 92:12-14, "*The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. 13 Those **that be planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God.** 14 **They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing.***"

Are you fat and flourishing in Christ, yea are you planted in Christ this morning and if you are, then you are no doubt "*Rooted and built up in him...*" What Paul does now is that he takes a turn from an agricultural metaphor to a building or construction metaphor.

2. The next word or phrase is built up which is the Greek word, "**epikodomeo**" This Greek word is a compound word from the prefix '**epi**' which means upon and the root word '**oikodomeo**' which '**oikos**' means house and '**domeo**' which means to build, that is build a house. In other words it basically means to build on something that has already been built, that is adding to the foundation of a building, to build further. If we have been rooted in Christ we must build on this glorious foundation in order to promote

growth in our spiritual walk or as Peter would say, to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; We are to build and construct upon Christ and in the Greek it basically reads: being rooted and being built up in Him. The word built is also in the present tense which indicates that we are to be persistently building on the foundation. To build on this foundation is a continuous process where we must be continually involved in it day by day and year by year. We are to be rooted and built up constantly and since it is also in the passive voice, the Spirit of God is the one building us up also, thus we see the essence of the sovereignty of God and also the responsibility of man.

We must also understand that the Greek language used here totally excludes any form of secular humanism, because the passive voice is unmistakably clear that this spiritual building up is through the power of the Holy Spirit and the use of His Holy word. The aspect of building upon Christ is no doubt a vital part of our Christianity. You see, all men built on something or someone, that is, all men build on a certain structure or foundation. There are only 2 types of structures or foundations that man builds on, you either build upon God or you build upon humanism. All who are born into this world build on man's wisdom and on religious traditions and when God saves a sinner, he or she is rooted in Christ and their building is now based on the word of God which is diametrically opposed to man's philosophy and humanism and this is what Paul is saying to us who name the name of Christ, "*Rooted and built up in him...*" As the hymn writer would say, "On Christ the solid rock I stand all other ground is sinking sand!" Let me ask you this morning; are you building on the ROCK or are you building on the sand which but sinking SAND?

3. Which brings us to our third participle of the text in verse 7, "*...and stablished in the faith...*" The next word is stablished, it is the Greek word '**bebaioo**' which means sure, fixed and standing firm on the feet, maintaining solidity which includes durable by being unshakeable. It basically means having a firm foundation. It also gives the connotation to motivate and encourage confidence. Again like the past two, rooted and built this word stablished is also in the passive voice which means that this effect of being established or being stable is produced by an outside source, the Holy Spirit. This word is also in the present tense which indicates that this ongoing process is in every Christian. We must not only grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ but we are to be also established in grace according to Heb.13:9, "*Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. **For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein.***" Our faith is to be strengthened, that is established in Christ and Christ alone in contrast to the philosophies of this world.

We must remember that Paul is using these participles in contrast to verse 8, *“Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.”* In other words our hearts must be fixed in Christ, we see this used by David in the Psalms, in 57:7, *“My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed: I will sing and give praise.”* Psalms 112:7, *“He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the LORD.”* There is no doubt that if you are rooted and built up in Christ your heart will be established, yea FIXED on HIM! Because of the tenses of these participles, having been rooted in Christ, having been built up in Christ we continue to build on Christ the solid rock or solid foundation and thus being established in Christ we continue to be established. All three of these words are in the passive voice and therefore someone else other themselves rooted them, built them up and established them. This again it the out-workings of the Holy Spirit, and of course the aspect of the Sovereignty of God, in other words, they couldn’t root themselves, they couldn’t built themselves up and they couldn’t established themselves, GOD did, but it was up to the Colossians saints and also up to us if we are in Christ this morning to be responsible in our practice and not be negligence in our walk in Christ. It’s like in the Old Testament where God gave them the PROMISE LAND, it was theirs, but they had to occupy it, they had to fight their enemies, they had to possess the land and though they did this physically, we must do it spiritually and the spiritual warfare will be intact until the day we day. It is our duty to maintain our ways before Him, notice what Job said in Job 13:15, *“Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him.”* And of course in Titus 3:8, *“This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.”* May God grace us to maintain our responsibility before Him! Notice again Col.2:7, *“**Rooted and built up** in him, and **stablished in the faith**, as ye **have been taught**, abounding therein with thanksgiving.”* AS YOU HAVE BEEN TAUGHT! The word faith here in this text is not used in the sense of salvation, let me explain. There are 3 different types of faith:

- Saving Faith: That which has to do with salvation, when we first trusted in Christ.
- Persevering Faith or Walking Faith: Everyday faith needed for our Christianity in trusting God, remember we are to walk by faith and not by sight, thus we are to persevere in the faith.
- Doctrinal Faith: A body of truth, Jude uses it in this sense, *“Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the **common salvation**, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye **should earnestly contend for the faith** which was once delivered unto the saints.”*

I believe all 3 are used in the immediate context, read again verse 5-7 in Colossians 2, *“For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and **beholding your order, and the stedfastness of your faith in Christ.** 6 As **ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:** 7 **Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith**, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.”* This is why I said two weeks ago that I could not just past this text

which is so vital for our faith, without making emphasis in its application to us. Remember I said that verses 5-10 in my infant walk in Christ delivered me from many heresies, I didn't know any theology, but I knew what and who I was in Christ and if I was in Christ I was **COMPLETER** in HIM!

- In verse 5 it is speaking of our persevering faith and or walking faith, “...*beholding your order, and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.*”
- In verse 6 it speaks of both salvific faith and walking faith, “*As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord [How did we receive Christ, in SAVING FAITH], so walk ye in him.*”
- In verse 7, I believe it is speaking of doctrinal faith, that is, that faith or if you wish, that body of truth that was once delivered unto us we should earnestly contend for

This faith and or body of truth that is; this system of the body of doctrine, we must be established in, in order to keep us from false doctrine and or false teachings. We'll see more on this on our 6th point: **To preach the OLD Paths is to PREACH the TRUTH about Doctrine.** We see that Paul clearly qualified his statement with a Christ centered faith, as he deals with the importance of saving faith and a walking faith but this must be established and fixed on a doctrinal faith. Paul clearly had taught them sound doctrine, notice again verse 7, “*Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.*” The word taught is the Greek word, ‘**didasko**’ from **dao** which means to teach or to know that is to provide instruction or teaching in a formal or even informal setting. Paul had taught them truth; he had instructed them in the word of God to establish them in their faith. The teaching which they had been taught would guide time even when confronted with false doctrine and heresy, why? Because they have been rooted, built up and established in sound doctrine! The Colossians were established in doctrine this is why they were able to receive Paul's letter with grace, that is, this letter to the Colossian didn't shake their faith, it didn't affect their foundation.

Paul admonishes the Colossians concerning the steadfastness of their faith, reminds them how one day that had received Christ Jesus the Lord in the aspect of salvation, thus he exhorts them to walk in Him in whom they had received, having been rooted in Him, being built up in Him and being established in the faith they had been taught. Now they were to fourthly abound in thanksgiving.

4. The Greek word for abounding is ‘**perisseuo**’ which basically means to be overflowing with great quantities of thanksgiving. It means to exceed, to have more than enough, going beyond that is; to run over. This is also in the present tense which means that as Christians we should continually be in the habit of overflowing or abounding in thanksgiving. Now part of this grateful acknowledgement to God is that we have been

acquainted with blessed and glorious truths that have made a great impact in our lives! No doubt this reminds me of the words of David in Ps.23, notice how the whole Psalm comes together, *“The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. 3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. 4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. 5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; **my cup runneth over.*** [Or if you wish, my cup is overflowing with thankfulness to God] *6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.”* No wonder his heart was FIXED on God and then of course Ps.45:1 & 2, *“My heart is inditing a good matter: [My heart is bubbling over, my heart is hot for God, it is boiling over, yea my cup runneth over, or as it is translated in Spanish, mi copa esta rebosando!, yes, my heart is overflowing with thankfulness, why David tells us why? Because...] I speak of the things which I have made touching the king: my tongue is the pen of a ready writer. 2 Thou art fairer than the children of men: grace is poured into thy lips: therefore God hath blessed thee forever.”*

Because they were in Christ whom they had received, they have also been rooted in Him, and are being built in Him and being established in Him therefore they were abounding and overflowing with thanksgiving!

Notice again how Paul uses these words walk, rooted, built up, established and abounding:

- Christ is the path in which we are to walk.
- Christ is the root in which we are to be planted.
- Christ is the foundation in which we are to build on.
- Christ is the sure and steadfast Savior wherein we have been established.
- Christ is the reason we are to be abounding in thanksgiving.

So now Paul says you are to abound in thanksgiving for all those things Christ has done for us. It's too easy to murmur and complain, let us be in the thanksgiving mode. Regardless of our situations we can be a thankful people especially when you really realize where you have been, where you are now in Christ and where you will be going when you die. Any situation that comes upon us, we can say, it can be worse and or also say just let it go and find ourselves in a thanksgiving mode. Thanksgiving is a natural expression of our faith, you see the sphere of our abounding in thanksgiving is faith and thanksgiving is a mark of and character of our faith. You might ask, Pastor Joe how is faith incorporated in the abounding of thanksgiving? Real simple because my answer is, Paul tells us so, he tells us by the word 'THEREIN' notice again verse 7, *“Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, **abounding therein** with thanksgiving.”* In other words the word 'therein' identifies the faith wherein we are established. In simple terms thanksgivings are a natural expression of our faith. If we are in Christ and have been rooted, built up and stablished in the faith our

lives then are to be characterized by a continual abounding in thanksgiving. Now, if you recall all 3 previous participles, rooted, built up and established were all in the passive voice and the emphasis was on what God had and was doing in the lives of these believers.

This last participle abounding is not only in the present tense but is also in the ACTIVE voice meaning that the believers are doing the work of overflowing with thanksgiving. Thus, again this is a characteristic of a child of God to be giving thanks to God and on the other side of the coin evidences of a lost person it to have an unthankful heart. Notice the following verses 2 Tim.3:1-2, *“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. 2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy...”* And in Romans 1:21&22, *“Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. 22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools.”* By no means am I saying that a lost person is never thankful, nor am I saying that a child of God can be unthankful, but what I am saying is that the child of God is to be characterized as one who is abounding in thanksgiving, that is; a child of God knows that all blessings come from God’s hand and not in some heathenish luck or good karma, thus the child of God is indebted to God and should have a thankful heart.

- 1 Thess.5:18 says, *“In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”*
- Giving thanks is also a spiritual sacrifice. Remember God has made us kings and priests and as priests we must offer living sacrifices and one of them is the sacrifice of thanksgiving.
- Ps.116:17, *“I will offer to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the LORD.”*
- Ps.107:22, *“And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare his works with rejoicing.”*
- Heb.13:15, *“By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.”* Notice how sacrifice of thanksgiving is united with worship in the sacrifice of praise.

Notice how David in his worship and praise of God gave thanks: 1 Chron.16:1-4, 7-9, *“So they brought the ark of God, and set it in the midst of the tent that David had pitched for it: and they offered burnt sacrifices and peace offerings before God. 2 And when David had made an end of offering the burnt offerings and the peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD. 4 And he appointed certain of the Levites to minister before the ark of the LORD, and to record, **and to thank and praise the LORD God of Israel:** 7 Then on that day David delivered **first this psalm to thank the LORD** into the hand of Asaph and his brethren. 8 **Give thanks unto the LORD, call upon his name,** make known his deeds among the people.”* Psalms 105:1, *“O give thanks unto the LORD; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people.”* Ps.69: 30, *“I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving.”* Then of course if you come to

Wednesday night prayer meetings you will hear me at times read this next text from 1 Chron.29:10-13, from which I never get tire of reading; “Wherefore David blessed the LORD before all the congregation: and David said, Blessed be thou, LORD God of Israel our father, for ever and ever. 11 Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all. 12 Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all. 13 **Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name.**”

There are so many reasons to give thanks unto God, but the question is, do you, do you give thanks unto God?

Again in verses 5-7, we have The Dedication: “For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the stedfastness of your faith in Christ. 6 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: 7 Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.” Thus, Paul exhorts them to maintain their walk in the Lord Jesus Christ, that is, to be dedicated and committed especially in this great treasure we have in Christ, this is our responsibility. If we understand that Christ is object and subject of our faith or if you wish, the author and finisher of our faith then we ought to be abounding therein with thanksgiving!

The implication is that a foundation has already been laid and this is the result in being rooted, built, stablish in the faith that leads to a life of abounding in our Christian lives with a heart of intense gratitude and thanksgiving.

Do you know anything of this or is this strange to you? This is what it means to grow in the grace and knowledge in our Lord Jesus Christ. What we see in our whole context of these verses in Colossians 2 is the aspect of our responsibility and the essence of the sovereignty of Christ as we are told in verse 9 “For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.” Therefore the end result is verse 10, “And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power.” Herein no doubt we see the Sufficiency and Sovereignty of our Lord Jesus Christ, but again the question this morning is do you know HIM? Is He your LORD? Is He your Savior? Do you have this relationship with Christ that it so describes you in these blessed verses; oh to God we pray again that you know this Christ who is both Jesus and LORD? Is your faith in God Christ centered? Or is it religiously centered, or perhaps church centered, oh to God again we hope and pray that you have a saving and justifying faith that is CHRIST CENTERED!

This again is the Jesus whom we preach to you this morning who is the Head of all Principality and ALL power, that is, all power in heaven and all power in earth, are you willing to face Him when you die?

Are you willing to face Him who has all power and all authority to put you in hell if you die in your sins? Remember the words of Christ in Matthew 10:28, “And fear not them which kill the

body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”

Jesus has preeminence over all things in heaven and in earth and He is the Head of all Principality and ALL power, and the question therefore this morning is, does Jesus Christ have first place in your life? Does He have the preeminence in your life? Oh to God I pray He does! Come to Christ this morning in faith, trusting, believing and laying hold of HIM as your LORD and SAVIOR? Do not my dear ones face eternity without CHRIST! Let's Pray: