

Quarter One: Uniting Heaven & Earth: Christ in Philippians & Colossians

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Lesson 10—Complete in Christ

Monday: Rooted and Growing in Christ

March 2, 2026

- **Last Week:** “Reconciliation and Hope”
 - Col 1:21 – 29 – Individual reconciliation with God through Jesus’ death on the Cross
 - Simplicity & power of the gospel, in the life of the believer
- **This Week:** “Complete in Christ”
 - Col 2 (next week = Col 3:1 - 17)
 - False teachers in Colossae & pushing the ceremonial law instead of the true gospel
 - False teaching involved circumcision & keeping of Jewish festivals & Jewish regulations, worship of angels & commandments & doctrines of men

Memory Text: “So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ” (Col 2:16, 17, NKJV).

The week in brief:

- 1. **Sunday:** The Wisdom & Knowledge of God (John D)
 - Col 2:1 – 7 – Paul’s desire to warn of false teachings, but also to unite the believers in Christian love, on a firm foundation of Scripture & with order in the body of Christ
- 2. **Monday:** Rooted and Growing in Christ (Jill)
 - Col 2:6 – 8 – Jesus the living Word and the written Word (cannot separate Jesus from His teachings); metaphor of plants & growth vs artificial plants
- 3. **Tuesday:** Nailed to the Cross (SQ)
 - Col 2:11 – 15 – the ceremonial law nailed to the cross (not the moral / 10 “C” law); the Gentile believers in Colossae didn’t need to keep the ceremonial law, including circumcision & the purity laws
- 4. **Wednesday:** Shadow or Substance? (James)
 - Col 2:16 – 19 – Jewish believers pushing “rules” on Gentile Christians in Colossae; type & antitype – shadow of things to come reached their fulfillment in Christ
- 5. **Thursday:** Commandments of Men (Ryan)
 - Col 2:20 – 23 – the ceremonial law served its purpose – point forward to Christ; but is no longer needed. Danger of keeping certain traditions today to make us feel superior or to earn salvation.

Monday: Rooted and Growing in Christ

Col 2:6 - 8; Eph 2:20; Isa 61:3; Matt 3:10; Luke 8:11 – 15; 1 Cor 3:6; Gal 5:1; Acts 15:10; Gal 1:6 – 9

- If we take Christ seriously, as both Creator & Reconciler / Redeemer, how should we live?
 - Does it matter how we live?
 - Can I be a Christian – a Christ-follower – and live how I want?

- John 13:35 – “By this, all will know if you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”
- Matt 7:15, 16 – “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. (16) You will know them by their fruits...”
- 2 Cor 5:17 – “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”
 - The life of the believer testifies whether they **are** a believer
 - Christianity is not mere intellectual assent to the truth; it is heart conversion

How to live as a Christian: Col 2:6 - 8

- Col 2:6 – “As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,”
 - Living as a Christian = Receive Christ Jesus
 - **Key #1:** It matters **who** we receive
 - Receive Christ as a Person – not just a body of teachings
 - Yet, living Word (Jesus) can’t be separated from Written Word (Jesus)
 - John 1:1 – “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”
 - The Word = Jesus
 - John 1:14 – And the Word became flesh & dwelt among us...
 - John 17:17 – “Sanctify them by Your truth, Your Word is truth.”
 - Jesus sanctifies us (Jesus = the Word; Jesus = the Truth)
 - Eph 2:20 – “having been built on the **foundation** of the **apostles** and **prophets**, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,”
 - Foundation of apostles / prophets = the Word of God
 - Therefore, receiving Christ also means receiving His teachings / Word
 - Only through Scripture can we know Jesus
 - Living as a Christian = Receive & walk
 - **Key #2:** It matters **that** we walk (not just receive)
 - Faith is expressed in the life: attitude, behavior, actions
 - Not just intellectual assent to the truth – the truth needs to change us
 - John 14:6 – “Jesus said, ‘I AM the Way, the Truth & the Life’”
 - Jesus = the Truth; He changes us
 - Living as a Christian = **as** you have received, **so** walk
 - **Key #3:** It matters **how** we walk
 - We receive Him by grace through faith (Justification)
 - We walk in Him, by surrender (death to old way of life) and faith in Christ (Christ living in me, by faith)
 - Sanctification

- Col 2:7 – “rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.”
 - Living as a Christian = be planted deeply in Him & established in the faith
 - **Key #4:** It matters **where** we’re planted
 - Are we planted on shifting sand or the Rock, Christ Jesus?
 - Planted on traditions of men or the Word of God?
 - Planted on pride & ego or humility of Christ?
 - Planted on cheap grace or matchless grace of Christ?
 - Planted on legalism / works-focused religion or faith in Christ?
 - Planted on false teachings & philosophy or Word of God?
 - Parable of the sower – Seed = the Word of God
 - Are we planted in Him?
 - Isa 61:3 – “...that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.”
 - God plants us
 - On authority of His Word & beauty of the gospel
 - Eph 3:17 – we are “...rooted and grounded in love”
 - Living as a Christian = grow in Him (built up in Him)
 - **Key #5:** It matters **how** we grow
 - A true Christian is never stagnant – always growing
 - 2 Pet 3:18 – “but grow in the grace & knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”
 - Grow in grace – fruit of the Spirit
 - Grow in the knowledge of Jesus – knowledge of the Word
 - Inseparable – growth in grace & knowledge
 - Knowledge of His Word leads to knowing Jesus
 - Knowing Jesus leads to knowing His Word
 - Matt 3:10 – “...Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown in to the fire.”
 - Living as a Christian = live with joy (thanksgiving)
 - **Key #6:** It matters **why** we rejoice
 - “abounding in it (the truth) with thanksgiving”: we rejoice because
 - We are partakers of the inheritance of the saints (Col 1:12)
 - He strengthens us with might (Col 1:11)
 - The peace of Christ rules in our hearts (Col 3:15)
 - God is our Father (Col 3:17)
 - We can continue earnestly in prayer (Col 4:2)
- Col 2:8 – “Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.”
 - Living as a Christian = being alert for false teachers / teachings
 - **Key #7:** It matters **who** we trust
 - We could be ensnared with false teachings
 - If we adopt false teachings, we accept a different gospel
 - We accept human authority over Scriptural authority

- Will we trust wolves in sheep's clothes?
 - Will we trust artificial plants that look real?
- Will we trust the Word of God?
 - Important as we move into Col 2: trust God's Word over false teachers

How to live as a Christian: Col 2:6 – 8

- Key #1: It matters **who** we receive
 - Receive Christ as a Person – not just a body of teachings
- Key #2: It matters **that** we walk
 - Not just intellectual assent to the truth – the truth needs to change us
- Key #3: It matters **how** we walk
 - Receive Him by faith & walk in Him by faith (justification & sanctification by faith)
- Key #4: It matters **where** we're planted
 - Planted in Christ & the authority of God's Word
- Key #5: It matters **how** we grow
 - Grow in grace & knowledge
- Key #6: It matters **why** we rejoice
- Key #7: It matters **Who** we trust