

**Held Together:**  
**The Discipline that Holds It All Together**  
**Colossians 1:24-2:5**

**Dr. Steve Horn**

**October 16, 2016**

**Text Introduction:** We are working our way through the book of Colossians. A key phrase of Colossians comes in Colossians 1:17, “And by Him all things hold together.” I love this phrase. This phrase speaks to the preeminence of Jesus. He is all things. If He is all things, He must be first place in my life.

We have come today to a major shift in the tone of this letter. To this point in the letter, Paul has addressed what he is doing for them—praying for them even to the point of struggle. He has also delivered a reminder to them of basic theology. He has reminded his listeners who Christ is and what He has come to do in their lives.

Now, Paul begins to address what they (the Colossians) should do.

**Text:** Therefore, as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, walk in Him,<sup>7</sup> rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, overflowing with gratitude.

**Introduction:** Colossians 2:6 serves not only as a shift in the tone of this letter, this one verse declares the basic message of this entire book. It is not unreasonable to even suggest that this one verse is the basic message of the whole letter.

When I was 15 years old, my youth pastor challenged me to memorize two verses of Scripture. One was Jeremiah 12:5—“If you have run with the footman and they have tired you out, how will you compete with the horses? If you have fallen down in a land of peace, how will you do in the thicket of the Jordan?”

The other verse was this one, Colossians 2:6, “Therefore, as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him.”

I am so thankful for that challenge received over 30 years ago. I share that with you not to impress you that I learned a verse at 15 years old, but to tell you that it is a verse about which I have thought a great deal. People love to ask me, “How long does it take you to prepare your message?” Many of you know my answer. “It just depends.” In a real sense I’ve been working on this one for about 31 years. It’s a guiding principle for my life. I hope that you will catch that today and be challenged in your own life about receiving Christ Jesus as Lord and then walking in Him for the rest of your life in everything that you do.

I want to take each phrase today as the basis of an outline.

**Therefore as you have received...**

**This phrase speaks to the Past Reality of our initial commitment to Jesus.**

This is past tense. We have had a beginning. The beginning is important. How have we received Christ Jesus the Lord?

- By Grace (Ephesians 2:8)

you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift—

If you are saved this morning (if you are a Christian) then you had a start. And that start was a gift. You received your start by grace. That grace came from Jesus. That grace came from His work, not your own works. If you are saved, you are saved not because you are good, but because He is good. There are not good enough works in order for you to be made right with God. You are made right with God as the result of Jesus' death, burial, and glorious resurrection from the grave. But this grace does not come automatically or else all would be saved.

You also received Christ Jesus ...

- By Hearing (Romans 10:17)

So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the message about Christ.

You received Christ into your life because someone told you. This is why we are committed to helping you learn to tell others.

In order for you to be saved someone had to tell you by some means, or else it would be automatic. But you do not receive Jesus just by hearing. Some reject when they hear. So, you have received Jesus ...

- By Decision (Acts 2:37)

When they heard this, they came under deep conviction and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles: "Brothers, what must we do?"

Salvation is not automatic. You received salvation. There has to be some point at which you say, "That is what I believe about Jesus. I am going to reject sin, I am going to reject other philosophies, other teachings about spiritual things and believe in Jesus for the forgiveness of sin and for eternal life.

### **Christ Jesus the Lord**

**This phrase speaks to the Particular Testimony that we have as Christians.**

- "Christ" specifically implies who He is.

The word "Christ" or "Christos" speaks to His being the Messiah. The prophets spoke of the coming Messiah. The Messiah was the hope of Israel. This is why Peter's confession is so important. We find that in Matthew 16. Jesus is with His disciples and asks them, "Who do people say that I am?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, some say

Jeremiah, or another prophet.” Jesus then said, “But you, who do you say that I am?” It was Simon Peter who spoke, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God!”

This is Colossians 1:15-20.

It matters who you say He is.

- “Jesus” specifically implies what He has done.

Jesus is the name that refers specifically to Jesus as Savior. In Matthew’s Gospel, when it is revealed that Mary is pregnant, we read that an angel came to Joseph. “Joseph,” the angel said, “Don’t be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because what has been conceived in her is by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you will name Him Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.”

And when the baby is born, it is Joseph who gives the baby the name “Jesus.”

This is Colossians 1:13-14. But it is not enough to receive Jesus as the Christ. And it is not enough to receive Jesus as Jesus (the Savior.). We must understand that when we receive Christ Jesus, we must receive Him as Lord.

- “Lord” specifically implies who He is to us.

This is Colossians 1:18, “So that He might come to have first place in everything.” This is Colossians 2:6 that we would “walk in Him.” So let’s talk about that.

### **Walk in Him**

**This phrase speaks to the Present Activity of our lives.**

This actually speaks to the present and ongoing activity in our lives.

What is walking in Him going to look like? We have four word pictures in verse 7.

- Rooted like a tree.

This is our salvation. We must be grounded in salvation which of course is grounded in His grace, in hearing the Word, but also by decision.

- Being Built like a house.

Here’s what I like about this analogy. We must have a foundation. But here the language of the text is present tense signaling ongoing activity. We are constantly being remodeled.

- Established like a legal case.

This word “established” was sometimes used in legal settings. You might also see the word “strengthened.” A legal case is weak or strong. We walk in Him as we get stronger—stronger in the Word, stronger in fellowship with others, and stronger in our faith.

- Overflowing with gratitude like a cup.

You want to stay walking in Jesus? Keep thinking about His love for you. Keep thinking about the cross. Keep thinking about His love that brought Him down to man. Don’t ever stop thinking about His grace.

As you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him.

Have you received Him by grace through faith?

If so, today, are you walking in Him?