

ROOTED, RESCUED, AND RENEWED IN CHRIST

COLOSSIANS 2:6-23

CHURCH GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE - FEBRUARY 23, 2025

SCRIPTURE READING

Colossians 2:6-23 (Read the passage aloud.)

Alive in Christ

6 Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, 7 rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

8 See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. 9 For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, 10 and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. 11 In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, 12 having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. 13 And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, 14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. 15 He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

Let No One Disqualify You

16 Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. 17 These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. 18 Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, 19 and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.

20 If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations— 21 “Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch” 22 (referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to human precepts and teachings? 23 These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.

ICE BREAKER QUESTION

If you could be any tree, which one would you choose and why? (This lighthearted question introduces the theme of being rooted in Christ.)

SERMON OVERVIEW

This passage in Colossians teaches that our faith must be deeply rooted in Christ so that we are not easily swayed by false teachings or worldly philosophies. Paul reminds the church that true strength and security come not from religious rituals, personal effort, or human wisdom but from being deeply connected to Jesus. He outlines three key truths:

- **Rooted** in Christ (Colossians 2:6-7) – Our faith must be firmly established in Christ, growing deeper and stronger through daily obedience and community.
- **Rescued** from Deception (Colossians 2:8-15) – The world is filled with deceptive philosophies that seem wise but lead us away from Christ. Jesus has already won the victory over sin and falsehood.
- **Renewed** in Christ, Not Religion (Colossians 2:16-23) – True faith is not about religious rituals or legalistic rule-keeping but about being transformed by Jesus.

Paul’s warning is clear: we must be anchored in Christ alone to stand firm in our faith.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Observation: What Do You See? (These questions help people engage with the text.)

1. What are some keywords or phrases that stand out to you in Colossians 2:6-23?
2. How does Paul describe being “rooted and built up in Christ” in verses 6-7?
3. In verse 8, Paul warns against being “taken captive” by empty philosophies. What do you think he means by this?
4. What does it mean that Christ “disarmed the rulers and authorities” (verse 15)?

Interpretation: What Does It Mean? (These questions help the group reflect on the meaning of the passage.)

5. Why do you think Paul emphasizes walking in Christ, rather than just believing in Him?
6. Paul contrasts Christ's work with legalistic religious practices. Why do people sometimes prefer rule-keeping over a relationship with Jesus?
7. In verses 16-17, Paul says religious festivals and rules are just a "shadow" of the things to come. What does this mean?
8. What does it mean to have our "record of debt" nailed to the cross (verse 14)? How does this impact our identity in Christ?

Application: What Do I Do? (These questions help apply the message to daily life.)

9. The Giant Redwoods stand strong because their roots are intertwined. How can we develop stronger "root systems" with other believers in our church community?
10. In what ways can you deepen your roots in Christ this week? (Consider Bible study, prayer, community, or worship.)
11. What are some modern "false teachings" that you see influencing believers today? How can we guard against them?
12. Are there areas in your life where you rely more on religious routines than a relationship with Jesus? How can you shift your focus back to Him?
13. Paul describes how Christ has set us free from sin and deception. How can we share this truth with others in our lives who are still searching for security?

CLOSING PRAYER AND REFLECTION

Take a moment to reflect on these questions:

- Am I truly rooted in Christ?
- Am I guarding against deception?
- Is my faith based on a deep relationship with Jesus or just religious rituals?

PRAYER

"Father, thank You for rooting us in Christ, rescuing us from deception, and renewing us in Your truth. Help us to walk in the freedom of Your grace, grow in our faith, and stay anchored in You. May we stand firm in Your truth and help others find security in Jesus alone. In His Jesus' name, we pray, Amen."

NEXT STEPS

- Identify one action step you can take this week to grow deeper in Christ.
- Reach out to someone who may be struggling in their faith and encourage them.
- Commit to reading Colossians 2:6-23 again and meditating on what it means to be truly anchored in Christ.

Let's stay rooted in Christ and grow stronger together!