

Be Alert

Colossians 2:7-9

Your Relationship with Jesus Christ is under siege!

Verses 4-5 Methods of false teaching to take away your relationship with ***JESUS CHRIST***

4 **I say this so that no one will delude you with persuasive argument.**

5 **For even though I am absent in body, nevertheless I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good discipline and the stability of your faith in Christ.**

Verses 6-8 Protection against False Teaching

6 **Therefore, as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,**

7 **having been firmly rooted *and now* being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, *and overflowing with gratitude.***

8 **See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.**

Colossians 2:6

6 **Therefore, just as you have received Christ, Jesus, the Lord so continue to walk in Him**

the correct PAST sets the correct PRESENT

7 **having been firmly rooted** in the past experience
and now present experiences
being built up in Him and being established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude

8 **See to it** now in the present
that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world rather than according to Christ.

Verse 7

having been firmly rooted

This is a PERFECT PASSIVE PARTICIPLE and

the PASSIVE VOICE means we received being firmly rooted which makes possible the PERFECT PASSIVE PARTICIPLE of

being built up and being established in your faith which as you can see are also in the PASSIVE VOICE which means we rec.

being built up and we receive being established in faith.

PRINCIPLE:

From Salvation to eternity, the Plan of God is always by Grace.

(PASSIVE VOICE is the GRACE VOICE)

Having been firmly rooted Goes back in parallel with the AORIST ACTIVE INDICATIVE of verse 6.

have received Christ. Introduces their new status.

Now in verse 7 Paul builds on their new status...

having been firmly rooted and that **by receiving Christ *as Savior***
verse 6

the PRESENT ACTIVE IMPERATIVE **keep walking in Him** but now the PERFECT PASSIVE PARTICIPLES are used to show what happens now that we are new spiritual creation, when we keep walking by Faith in the Holy Spirit first:

being built up in Christ and (secondly) **being established in your faith**

One of the great problems in our zeal to get people saved, we neglect encouraging them what to do after they are saved by **“FAITH ALONE IN CHRIST ALONE.”** When you are blessed by bringing someone to salvation in Christ, do not stop there. Do not leave them as new babes in Christ.

Left here, they will be eaten up by wolves of false doctrines. Spend a few more moments directing them how to walk—that their next objective is being built up and established in their Faith.

So, let us take a look at what being **firmly rooted** means and what **being built up in Him** means.

You will want to know this for yourselves and for witnessing to others.

Having been rooted again this is in parallel with **as you have received the Christ, Jesus, the Lord.**

Having been rooted occurred the moment you believed in JESUS CHRIST as Savior. Being rooted is another way of expressing the idea of the laying of a firm foundation. And this recalls

1 Corinthians 3:9

9 **For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.**

Having been rooted... and now

After Salvation, what?

Unfortunately, most believers do not know why they are left on earth after being saved eternally in Christ. Now that you are a believer in JESUS CHRIST, now that you have laid in you the Solid Foundation or now that you have been Securely Rooted...

you are now being built up in Him

Oh, people I hope you can see what is supposed to be happening in your life by God's design.

WE ARE TO BE BUILT UP IN CHRIST!!

Oh, I know all about witnessing and giving, etc., but these should be results of being built up in Christ, not the way to be built up.

WHAT IS YOUR LIFE BUILT ON

You are not built up by service in community,
you are not even built up even in doctrine,
but you are to be built up in a person,
the person of JESUS CHRIST;

WHAT IS YOUR FOCUS IN LIFE

Eternity Past is about JESUS CHRIST;
all human history is about JESUS CHRIST;
all eternity future is about JESUS CHRIST.
Your life should be about JESUS CHRIST.

1 Corinthians 3 describes the kind of PASTOR-TEACHER you should seek and sit under and be built up in, in Christ.

If you take JESUS CHRIST seriously, then find a Pastor-Teacher who builds you up with “**gold, silver and precious stones**” which refers to sound doctrine.

Of JESUS CHRIST Himself, of JESUS CHRIST related to time past and related to JESUS CHRIST in future time, on earth, in heaven and in eternity.

Of course, if you do not take JESUS CHRIST seriously then it really does not matter where you go to church!

and being established in your faith

The Greek word translated **established** is one of those rich Greek words. *The Complete Word Study Dictionary of the New Testament*, a Greek Lexicon says: ***“to make firm or reliable so as to warrant security and inspire confidence, to strengthen”*** .

Moulton-Milligan says this word is used as a legal term, “to validate,” to “confirm” or “to guarantee”.

And in the *Complete Biblical Library Vol 1* says that the use of this word in the New Testament ‘certainly’ drawing upon the legal imagery.

Ok, what is validated or confirmed in our passage?

in the faith This is not a prepositional phrase.

We have the Greek word ***pistis*** in the instrumental case and should be translated **constantly being stabilized by means of faith.**

This translation brings out the instrumental case of ***pistis*** and this highlights that the **PLAN OF GOD FROM SALVATION TO LIVING OUR LIVES IS BY GRACE!**

Faith always receives—

Here when we live by Faith, we receive being stabilized in our souls. We receive being validated by God.

**You see this stability you receive in life,
is not because of something you do
but because of something the Object of your Faith does!**

Faith in JESUS CHRIST—we receive eternal life salvation – receive being firmly rooted in Christ.

Faith in the Holy Spirit –we receive spirituality in life, we receive being built up in Christ, and we receive being established by means of Faith.

That is, the believer is confirmed, validated or made secured, and given confidence and strengthened as long as he/*or*/she lives by Faith in the Holy Spirit, from verse 6.

Grace demands a non-meritorious system of thinking which is **Faith!**

And the merit of **Faith** is in the **Object** of **Faith**.

In eternal salvation, the **Object** of **Faith** is the Son of God —JESUS CHRIST—.

He did all the work necessary for salvation on the cross and in Resurrection: He took care of the negative—the forgiveness of sins; He bore the penalty of sins and He provides the possibility of imputed Righteousness resulting in Justification.

In recovery from the power of sin the **Object Faith** is God the Holy Spirit which results in the believer being under the Power and Leading of the Holy Spirit in his/*or*/her daily life.

God's plan is **Grace** from beginning to end.

Think about this; in times when you are in tribulation, and prone to **Stress**, **Anxiety**, or **Depression (SAD)**, you can have inner confidence, be secure in your soul, if you will just continue to live by **Faith** in the Holy Spirit,
Faith in God the Father and
Faith in JESUS CHRIST.

You God **will keep in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you** constantly trusting Him, constantly thinking of Him; **because he trust in you, trust in the Lord forever, for in God the Lord we have an everlasting rock.** Isaiah 26:3-4.

Colossians 2:7

7 **having been firmly rooted** Eternal Security in Salvation by Faith in JESUS CHRIST **and now being built up in Him** by growing in the knowledge of JESUS CHRIST by the study of the Word of God (2 Peter 3:18) **and established –secured by means of faith;**

just as you were instructed AORIST PASSIVE INDICATIVE of the verb to be taught;

There is that Grace PASSIVE again, meaning you have received being taught –*instructed by word of mouth* –.

To receive being taught the Word of God you have to attend where it is taught. The Greek word used here means to ***teach with authority in a public assembly.***

People, ask yourselves:
Why did JESUS CHRIST set up the Local Church system?
Why does God the Holy Spirit give men the
Spiritual Gift of Pastor-Teacher?

The answer to both of these questions is for the spiritual benefit of believers to grow in the Knowledge of God (Colossians 1:10) and increasing in the Knowledge of JESUS CHRIST (2 Peter 3:18)

The AORIST TENSE refers to every time the believers assemble to hear the teaching of the Word of God by the Pastor-Teacher.

The PASSIVE VOICE refers to every time the believer receives the teaching of the Word of God in the assembly of the Local Church.

And the INDICATIVE MOOD refers to the reality of the communication of Bible doctrine in the local assembly

There is so much to know about **'THE CHURCH'**.

1 There is the Church universal which is made up of believers in JESUS CHRIST all over the world.

2 Then there is the Local Church which refers to the assembly of believers in JESUS CHRIST to worship God through or by the study of His Word, singing, praying and giving and celebration of Communion.

3 There are all kinds of views on church membership, but in truth to be a member of a Local Church simply means that you attend that church in worship of God, and learning about JESUS CHRIST. Church membership has nothing to do with salvation or spirituality.

4 The Church is not a building but the Church is believers in JESUS CHRIST assembled to grow in the knowledge of God and of JESUS CHRIST and the Plan of God.

5 Then there is a study on the Church Age. This is a dispensation in history that follows the Age of Israel and precedes the Tribulation or the last 7 years of God's promise to Israel of 390 years. THE CHURCH AGE is the **Mystery Age**. Colossians 1:25-27; Ephesians 3:1-5 and Romans 16:25-26.

6 The Church Age began on the Day of Pentecost (recorded in Acts 2) with the lasting effect that every person who believes in JESUS CHRIST as Savior is Indwelt by the Holy Spirit. The Church Age could not begin until after the Death-Burial-Resurrection-Ascension-Session of JESUS CHRIST. The Church Age will be terminated by the Rapture.

7 The head of the Church is JESUS CHRIST.
Colossians 1:18

8 The final authority in any Local Church is the Word of God.

Colossians 2:7

7 **having been firmly rooted** Eternal Security in Salvation by Faith in JESUS CHRIST **and now being built up in Him** by growing in the knowledge of JESUS CHRIST by the study of the Word of God (2 Peter 3:18) **and established –secured by means of faith ; just as you were instructed –taught** and one of the results; **overflowing with gratitude – thanksgiving!**

And in the PRESENT TENSE it means ***constantly overflowing with thanksgiving***. As they hear and learn more and more they overflow with gratitude. Are you thankful when you hear the Word of God expounded?

The Ongoing Threat to our intimacy with JESUS CHRIST—

verse 8—

see to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world rather than according to Christ.

Dear People you have to be aware of the constant threat to your intimacy with Christ, your relationship with your husband/wife; with your relationship with a Local Church where the Word of God is constantly taught.

**Your life is under siege,
from the World,
the Flesh and
the Devil.**

First we have

A WARNING RELATED TO THE DANGERS OF FALSE TEACHING

See to it

This is your responsibility;

This is the responsibility of every person who has believed in JESUS CHRIST as their personal savior.

I like the King James here: **beware**

This is the PRESENT ACTIVE IMPERATIVE of the Greek verb meaning ‘**to see**’ and here it means to be able under the power of the Holy Spirit to see and recognize dangers to your spiritual life. To **be alert**; to be **on guard**; to be **beware** of dangers.

We all recognize how important this is in life—on boats, in the dark, in protection of our homes—;

But what about your spiritual life?

Most people are aware of dangers to their intimacy with their husband_{/or}/wife, but what about your intimacy with the Lord?

Do you have the wisdom to be alert, to be on guard to protect your intimacy with JESUS CHRIST?

**IN OUR CHRISTIAN LIFE
THERE ARE SEVERAL THINGS
WE ARE WARNED TO BE ON GUARD OF
IN THE WORD OF GOD.**

- 1) We are **warned** against using our freedom in Christ to be a stumbling block to a weak believer. The weak believer is a new believer who is still a baby when it comes to knowing Biblical Truth. Here we are to be on alert of our own flesh nature. 1 Corinthians 8:9
- 2) There is a **warning** to the believer who thinks he knows a lot... that he does not fall. Again, a warning against the enemy of our own flesh nature. 1 Corinthians 10:12
- 3) Believers in JESUS CHRIST are warned against gossiping and fighting with One Another least they destroy the entire assembly. Galatians 5:15
- 4) We are to be **alert** because the devil who seeks to cause the believer to move away from the Word of God.
1 Peter 5:6-9

6 **Therefore, humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time,**

7 **casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.**

8 **Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.**

9 **But resist him, firm in *your* faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.**

- 5) Then we are each one warned by JESUS CHRIST Himself against greed:
Luke 12:15

15 **Then He JESUS CHRIST said to them, Beware, and be on your guard JESUS CHRIST makes this warning stern and strong against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions.** Here is one of the great dangers in a free society, being distracted from Bible class and worship of God with others and growing in the Knowledge of JESUS CHRIST, by the obsession of getting more things!

- 6) There is warning in regards to prayer, to your prayer life:
Ephesians 6:18
With all prayer and petition, pray at all times in the Spirit Do you know how to be Filled with the Holy Spirit?

You should learn now that you are Filled with the Holy Spirit by Faith in the Holy Spirit, you need to understand that.

If you do know how,
be sure every time before you pray that you are in the
Power and Leading of the Holy Spirit
and with this in view, be on the alert
Don't be distracted in your prayers.
with all perseverance and petition for all the saints.

Many you do not know personally but you can enter into
their lives through prayer.

And then in our book of Colossians 4:2
**devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude
of thanksgiving.**

- 7) We have seen that we are to be **alert** and guard against
the enemy of the flesh, and against the enemy of Satan,
but we are challenged to be aware and alert against the
enemy of the world.

(Three enemies of every believer in JESUS CHRIST are:
The World, The Flesh and The Devil)

People be aware, the world has multiple schemes to distract
you from your relationship with JESUS CHRIST and in your
growing in the Word of God.

We will examine some of these in Colossians 2.
But the world—not the Lord—is offering what is called praise
worship in multitude of churches that offers a lot of emotion but
very little Bible Teaching...if any! 1 Corinthians 16:13-14;

So now we come to being alert against what the world offers to counter a relationship with JESUS CHRIST through His Word.

Colossians 2:8 **See to it**

This is in the imperative mood, which of course means this is a command to every believer in JESUS CHRIST. But we have also noted that the imperative mood is furthest removed from reality. Meaning not every believer will do this. In fact, few believers will be on guard.

See to it that no one People, this means no pastor, no leader, no one in your family, no one on radio or TV or books **takes you captive** PRESENT PARTICIPLE and the verb means to be captured, to carry someone from truth into lies, from freedom into slavery hence –to enslave after capturing.

Two points I would like to make at this point.

First:

This reminds us of Isaiah 28:9-13 **...and taken captive**

Second:

Christ died to set us free: Galatians 5:1

1 It was for freedom that Christ set us free therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.

He set us free from sin, which enslaves.

He set us free from the Law, which enslaves.

He set us free from the flesh nature, which enslaves.

One of the tragedies in history is how a free people will choose to go back into slavery as we are doing here in America. But we are here challenged to stand firm in the freedom Christ has set us free. Free in the Grace Plan of God.

Colossians 2:8 **See to it that no one takes you captive**

The Description of False Teaching

See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception

We could spend months on this one verse.

Philosophia a transliteration here **philosophy** not a translation. Literally "love of wisdom".

But not the wisdom of God, not the wisdom that is JESUS CHRIST (Colossians 2:3)

This word "*refers to the love and search for wisdom or the knowledge resulting from that pursuit.*"

From vol. 6 of The Complete Biblical Library:

"But in Colossians 2:8 '**philosophy**' refers neither to Greek philosophy in general nor to any single school. Rather, *philosophia* here is a **specific religious heresy**, one attempting to combine Christian teaching with other teachings from non-Christian sources."

And this is done abundant today, with such things as '**Chrislam**' combining teaching from the Bible with the koran. Combining

the Bible with Near Eastern mythology and of course modern-day Gnosticism.

It is this flesh hunger in search of knowledge that lead Paul to say **knowledge makes arrogant but Spiritual Life edifies**. So, this word refers to **'human wisdom'** of which Paul declares in Romans 1:22 **professing to be wise they became fools**.

So often children do not think of their parents as **'wise'** but if your parents told you about JESUS CHRIST they are truly wise and you would be wise to listen to them.

The Bible flows with references to the search for wisdom from the first book given to man by God, the book of Job chapter 28 through the book of Revelation.

We have seen in Colossians 2:3 where true wisdom is to be found **in whom JESUS CHRIST are hidden the treasures of wisdom and knowledge**. The more you learn about JESUS CHRIST the more you increase in wisdom and knowledge.

James 3:13-17 again explains the difference between wisdom of the world and wisdom from JESUS CHRIST.

13 **Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom.**

14 **But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth.**

15 **This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic.**

16 **For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.**

17 **But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.**

Colossians 2:8

9 **See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception**

The word '**empty**' means without truth as from God.

Oh, people you have to make up your mind about this Bible; Is this bible truly the Word of God, from God, without error, infallible?

And if it is, then here is where you should desire to spend the days of your life. In the Word of God, being taught by one Gifted of God and dedicated to the study and teaching of the Word of God. There are few pastors today who are dedicated to the study of the Word of God and to the teaching of the Word of God.

The world offers a great deal of **empty deception**.

The Greek word means deceit, delusion, deception; teaching that **seduces** believers in JESUS CHRIST away from abiding in the Word of Truth.

Mark 4:19

19 **but the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.**

Empty philosophies in the world, even in churches seduces believers away from the Truth. Riches has seduced many away from consistent attendance to church to grow in the Knowledge of God.

But sin also **seduces** believers Hebrews 3:13

13 **But encourage one another day after day, so long as it is still called 'Today' while you are still alive in the Church Age so that none of you will be hardened against learning the Word of God by the deceitfulness of sin.**

Colossians 2:8

9 **See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception**

So many young men are seduced away from a wonderful woman God has brought into their lives and so many young ladies have been seduced by the riches of man away from the man God has brought into her life. And, people, so many Christians are seduced away from truth by the emptiness of entertainment in the Church today.

Make up your mind, what you really desire in this life.

If it is indeed a relationship with JESUS CHRIST the Son of God, then find a Pastor-Teacher who teaches the Word of God and guard against all the devices of the world, the flesh and the devil to take you away from intimacy with JESUS CHRIST.

