

## 主内生活不偏离——歌罗西书 2:6-10

Walk in Christ and Be Not Moved-- Colossians 2:6-10

### *Introduction, Outline*

- Scriptures: Colossians 2:6-10, Psalm 23
- **Relevance:** Throughout the ages, the church has been attacked by various heresies, and the Colossian church was no exception. Paul wrote the Colossians, not only to help the Colossian church solve their problems, but also to provide guidance for the churches of all ages, teaching us how to walk in Christ according to the will of God and not be moved.
- **Theme:** In this text, Paul gave a brief summary from both positive and negative aspects of how Christians should hold fast to their faith to live in Christ and not be deceived by all kinds of lies.
- **Context:** Transitional role. After laying the foundation with key gospel truths and some personal heart-to-heart, Paul is ready to give some specific teachings on the problems of the Colossian church to help them deepen their understanding of the truth so they can live their Christian lives well in all aspects and not be deceived by heresy. Our text today is just an introduction to these practical teachings. It summarizes the specific teachings that follow.
- **Outline:**
  - Title: Walk in Christ and Be Not Moved
  - A. Walk in Christ (vv. 6-7)
    1. Prerequisite of the Walk: reception of Christ's teaching (v. 6a)
    2. Responsibility to Walk: live by Christ's teaching (v. 6b)
    3. Manifestation of the Walk: rooted, being built up, being established in faith, overflowing with thanksgiving (v7)
  - B. Watch for Traps (vv. 8-10)
    1. Danger of the Traps: let no one take you captive! (v. 8a)
    2. Nature of the Traps: philosophy, empty deception, tradition of man, elementary principles (v. 8b)
    3. Traps Make No Sense: we have been made complete in Christ! (vv. 9-10)

### **Walk in Christ (vv 6-7)**

1. *Prerequisite of the Walk: reception of Christ's teaching (v. 6a)*
  - **“Therefore”:** Untranslated in the Chinese Union Version, it is the conjunction at the beginning of verse 6, indicating that the following is the logical conclusion of the preceding text. Paul often uses this term to connect theological teaching and practical living. Everything up to this point are indicative statements explaining the truth, but starting here, you will see

more and more imperative sentences, which are instructions and exhortations for our daily life. “Therefore” shows that doctrine and life are closely connected, the former being the basis of the latter. What you believe determines how you live.

- “You have received Christ Jesus the Lord” : It refers to receiving the teachings of Jesus, not the popular vague concept of “receiving Jesus into your heart”. “Receive” clearly denotes accepting and following a certain teaching in the original text (see 1 Corinthians 11:23). The meaning of receiving Christ Jesus the Lord is, first of all, that you understand the Lord’s teaching, and then you accept it as the absolute truth and are resolved to follow this truth in your own life. This is the result of the work of the Holy Spirit in our hearts.
2. *Responsibility to Walk: live by Christ’s teaching (v. 6b)*
- “Walk”: main verb, an imperative. To walk is a common metaphor in the New Testament. The original word is composed of the verb “walk” and the prefix “around, everywhere”, so literally it means “to walk about”. Metaphorically, it means all the walks of life, in every step and every aspect. Everything a believer does should be in accordance with the Lord. Not just Sunday worship, not just Friday night fellowship, but also your words and deeds towards your boss and colleagues at work Monday through Friday, as well as your words and deeds towards your wife and kids at night after a busy day.
  - “As... so...”: It shows the direct connection between what you believe and what you do — what you believe determines what you do. If a person does not believe in eternal life, then all he pursues in life are the things of this life, how to live better and longer, and earning money is either to have fun and enjoy life, or to extend life for his own health; but if you do believe in eternal life and believe that this life directly affects eternal life, then your heart and mind in life will be completely different.
  - An insight: The context shows that walking in the Lord is not only the basic responsibility of a believer, but also the key to resisting false teachings (see verses 4 and 8). For, if you do not walk in the Lord, you will not enjoy the abundant life in the Lord, and you’ll feel unsatisfied. Then, when false teachers come with deceptive words, you will easily be led astray. Faith determines life, and vice versa, life also affects faith. These two are inseparable.

*“If you see a Bible teacher start departing from sound teaching and making compromises with heresies, just follow him to his bedroom and you’ll find out why.” — a preacher*

1 Timothy 4:16: “Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching . . . .” Pay attention to yourself first, and then your teaching. Life goes before teaching, for once life goes wrong, teaching will inevitably go wrong.

3. *Manifestation of the Walk: rooted, being built up, being established in faith, overflowing with thanksgiving (v7)*

- **“Rooted”**: Perfect tense. The root has been firmly grounded and cannot be pulled out. At the moment a person repents and believes in the Lord and sets his heart to follow Christ throughout his life, his life is firmly rooted in Christ and cannot be pulled out.

Contrast: The opposite picture to a firmly rooted tree is the rootless floating plants (like duckweeds) on the surface of the water, drifting along with the flow. The same goes for people without Christ. Their lives are led by the changing trends and ideologies without any stability.

- **“Being built up”**: An architectural metaphor. It can be used to describe the growth both of individual believers (Acts 20:32) and of the church as a whole (Ephesians 20:22). The context here focuses on the individual’s life. Each believer in Christ is a construction project. When he first believes in the Lord, he only has a foundation, but God will continue to use the teaching of the Bible, the work of the Holy Spirit, and the working together of all things to build you up, one brick after another, upon this foundation into a glorious temple.

Acts 20:32: “And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.”

- **“Established in your faith”**: Literally, “established in *the* faith.” The original Greek word for “faith” can refer to either subjective belief or objective content believed. (See Acts 6:7 and Galatians 1:23 for the latter usage.) The next phrase “just as you were instructed” indicates the focus here is the content of faith, that is, the truth. Believers need continually to be strengthened in the truth. Their understanding of God’s Word must grow richer and deeper, and then their subjective faith will also become stronger and stronger, and Satan will have less and less opportunity to deceive you.

- **“Overflowing with gratitude”**: “Overflow” paints the picture of pouring into a full cup and water keeps coming out. A believer’s heart is to be filled to the brim with thanksgiving

**Insight:** Thanksgiving is not just a manifestation of walking in the Lord, but also a key element of resisting false teaching. If thanksgiving is missing from a life in Christ, one is in danger of falling into the traps described in the next verse. *“A thankful heart only sees what it already has, not what it lacks. Errors built on empty promises cannot move those whose hearts are thankful. A dissatisfied and unthankful heart is fertile ground for errors to take root. Thanksgiving is a main theme of the letter, and it’s not without a reason. Worship (whether corporate or individual) is a defensive weapon against error.”* — a scholar.

### **Watch for Traps (vv. 8-10)**

1. *Danger of the Traps: let no one take you captive! (v. 8a)*

- **“See”**: main verb, an imperative. We must not only walk in Christ, but also know that the path is full of traps, and we must watch out. Satan has many tricks and is always coming up with new ways to entice believers away from the single-minded devotion to Christ. Just see

how the New Testament emphasizes that believers should be careful to guard against false teachers:

Matthew 7:15 “Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves.”

Matthew 16:6 “Watch out and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.”

Matthew 24:10-11 At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another. Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many.

Acts 20:29-30 I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.

Philippians 3:2 Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of the false circumcision.

2 Peter 3:3-4 Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts, and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation.”

- **“Takes you captive”**: The consequences of not being cautious. This word describes being captured by the enemy in war and becoming a slave. Satan not only tempts believers to deviate from the right way, but also tries to enslave them, that is, makes them worship idols.

2. *Nature of the Traps: philosophy, empty deception, tradition of man, elementary principles (v. 8b)*

- **“Through”**: indicates the tools and methods used by false teachers; **“According to”**: indicates the basis and source of their teaching.
- **“Philosophy”**: comes from the Greek word *philosophia* where “*philo-*” means “to love” and “*-sophia*” means “wisdom.” So, from where can one find wisdom?

Proverbs 9:10 “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.....”

Insight: This is the problem of philosophy. Man wants to find wisdom apart from God, which does not work at all. Secular philosophies posit all kinds of theories about the origin of the earth, the meaning of life, the things after death, various moral standards, and they all refuse to start from God’s own Word and attempt to discover the wisdom of life all by themselves!

- **“Empty deception”**: All those theories are empty and deceptive, because they cannot bring the life they promise, at all. Examples: Buddhism, meditation therapy for anxiety, and the sad end of the philosopher Nietzsche..... On the contrary, what a different life we have in Christ! Our life is abundant and real!

- **“Tradition of man”**: “Tradition” simply means that which is handed down and can be good or bad. The Bible is also a “tradition,” but the key difference is the source and authority. Tradition is unavoidable, but the key is to distinguish what tradition is from God and what is from man. The tradition of man isn’t inherently evil, but under two circumstances it becomes a dangerous trap: first, if it’s directly opposed to God’s Word (throw it away!); second, if you exalt it to an equal status as God’s Word and regard it inviolable (confess your idolatry and repent!).
- **“Elementary principles”**: originally refers to the basic elements consisting of the material world, from which it derives the sense of basic and elementary things. It has a derogatory tone and refers to that which is simple and naive, as only suitable for children and not for adults. See Galatians 4:9.

3. *Traps Make No Sense: we have been made complete in Christ! (vv. 9-10)*

- **“Fullness/complete”**: same word in the original Greek. Verse 9 is the fullness of Christ; and verse 10 is the fullness of the believers. Fullness of deity is in Christ, and believers are in Christ, so they get their fullness directly from His divine fullness! God in His infinite power and wisdom has prepared for us all the fullness human beings can possibly have. We, in Christ, in the fullness of God, have entered into a full and completed life, and there is no lack of anything and no need for anything to fill us up!

**Application:** If you live in the fullness of life that the Lord has given you, then when a false teacher entices you and says: “Come, follow me, and I will give you a fuller life.” You will say, “Are you kidding? I’m already full in Christ! All my sins have been fully covered by His blood. Now I am reconciled to God, the Maker of heaven and the earth who is my personal Shepherd. He feeds me with his Word and guides me with the rod and staff of His loving discipline. I am living in the body of Christ, growing together with other members of the body. What do I lack? I have all the fullness there can be!”