

Wednesday Night BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday, July 1, 2026 – First Baptist Church Buda
Midweek Prayer Meeting & Bible Study



COLOSSIANS: ROOTED IN CHRIST – PART 8

“Going On With Christ”

Colossians 2:6-7

“¹For I want you to know what a great conflict I have for you and those in Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh, ²that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ, ³in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. ⁴Now this I say lest anyone should deceive you with persuasive words. ⁵For though I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.” – Colossians 2:1-5 (NKJV)

“⁶As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, ⁷rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.” -Colossians 2:6-7 (NKJV)

BIBLICAL BACKGROUND FOR COLOSSIANS

The following is some of the general background information for the book of Colossians. Let's quickly review what we have previously said about the book of Colossians just to give us a bit of context...

Some General Background Information on Colossians:

- (1) **The author of Colossians = The Apostle Paul** - The Apostle Paul identifies himself as the author (1:1; 4:18)
- (2) **An important character in Colossians = Epaphras** - Epaphras likely planted the church by bringing the gospel he heard under Paul in Ephesus (Acts 19:10) back to his home city of Colossae (1:7; 4:12)
- (3) **Date, place and type of writing = A.D. 60-62, A prison epistle/letter written from Rome** - Paul writes this letter from a Roman prison around 60-62 AD (4:16)
- (4) **Important information about Colossae = Small but diverse city** - Colossae was a small but diverse city in Rome's Asia province, modern day Turkey
- (5) **2 key words to understand Colossae = Pluralism and syncretism** - They were immersed in an environment of pluralism and syncretism where most people simply borrowed from the religious and philosophical ideas of the day
- (6) **Identified false teaching/doctrine in Colossians = "The Colossian Heresy"** - Throughout the book Paul hints at a "Colossian heresy." However, he focuses on Christ-centered, correct teaching rather than the contents of the false teaching
- (7) **What we know about this false teaching/doctrine = It is "not according to Christ"** - Whatever this false teaching is, it is "not according to Christ" (2:8) and it undermines the sole supremacy and sufficiency of Jesus
- (8) **John Calvin's summary of Colossians = "This Epistle...to express it in one word, distinguishes the true Christ from a fictitious one."**
- (9) **Layout of the book = Half doctrinal, half practical** - Like other Pauline letters, the first half builds a rich theology that the second half exhorts us to then live out
- (10) **Relation to other N.T. books = Ephesians and Colossians are companion books** - These two books/letters were written around the same time, and they overlap greatly and can help explain one another

Our theme verse for this study is **Colossians 2:6-7**. This passage not only serves as a premise for this particular study, it also identifies a primary purpose for Paul's letter...

"⁶ As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, ⁷ rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving." -Colossians 2:6-7 (NKJV)

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 1. How would you counsel a Christian who has lost his first love for Christ? How can he rekindle it? (See Rev. 2:1-7.)**
- 2. Why is understanding who Jesus is and growing in that understanding essential for the Christian life (Matt. 16:13-17).**
- 3. Those who argue against what they call “lordship salvation” say that to require submission to Christ at the point of salvation is adding works to faith. How would you refute this?**
- 4. How can you develop gratitude when you suffer or are treated unfairly?**

In the Fall of 1982, I was sitting in church on Sunday morning and in walk a beautiful red headed girl. My friends had told me that she was my type, but I had heard that and had been disappointed so many times that I was skeptical, at best (I had just broken up with a girl that was a real jerk). But as I got to know Nancy, something inside of me said, “Yeah, she *does* seem like my type! She beautiful! She loves Jesus! She’s awesome! Maybe she could be the one!” My prayer was, “Lord, don’t let me mess this up!”

I was pretty messed up at the time from previous relationships and pretty unsure of myself, but we started spending more and more time together. There was some missed attempts at dating through some crazy mix-up that I don’t have time to go into... they are actually pretty funny stories. But eventually, we were spending every waking moment together... getting closer and closer, and more and more in love, but February (4 months after really meeting) we were engaged, and by August (about 10 months after meeting) we were married on August 13, 1983 (we will be married 43 years in August).

We all like to hear stories of how people fell in love. But, honestly, falling in love is fairly easy. But the question is, **how do you sustain that love so that it grows deeper and stronger over a lifetime?** I’ve performed a lot of weddings and without exception, the couples were deeply in love with each other. But sadly, I’ve also often had couples in my office who are so angry and bitter towards each other that I wonder how, just a few years before, they ever were in love. They started out madly in love, but they failed to sustain and deepen that love.

Becoming a Christian is a lot like falling in love...

- When you meet Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, you feel like the lame man at the temple, whom the Lord healed through Peter and John: you walk and leap and praise the Lord (Acts 3:8).
- Your guilt is gone.
- You’re at peace with God. H
- e gives you His joy and the hope of eternal life.
- You’re a brand new creation in Christ and it feels wonderful, kind of like falling in love.
- But those wonderful feelings will not automatically last.
- Trials and disappointments will come.

- You may suffer health problems.
- You pray for something, but God doesn't answer.
- Doubts will creep in.
- Old friends cut you off and ridicule your faith.
- If you're married, your spouse may be threatened by your changed life and become hostile and abusive.
- Your kids may not turn out as you had hoped and prayed.
- How do you go on with Christ over the long haul and sustain that first love for Him?

READ: Revelation 2:1-7

"¹To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, 'These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands: ² 'I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; ³ and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary. ⁴ Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. ⁵ Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent. ⁶ But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. ⁷ 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.'"

In Revelation 2:4, Jesus addresses the church in Ephesus, saying, *"Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love."* This *"first love"* refers to the initial, passionate devotion and affection believers had for Christ when they first encountered Him.

What "First Love" Means:

1. **Love for Christ** - The fervent, heartfelt affection believers felt when they first came to faith, rooted in God's sacrificial love for them (1 John 4:19).
2. **Love for others** - This love for Christ naturally extends to love for fellow believers and the world.
3. **Characterized by zeal for prayer, hunger for Scripture, eagerness for fellowship, boldness in witness, and joy in serving -**

Why Christians Sometimes Leave Their First Love:

1. **Religious duty** – Over time, devotion can become mechanical rather than heartfelt. Church attendance, Bible reading, and service may feel like habits rather than expressions of love.
2. **Complacency** – When the familiar becomes taken for granted, the heart can grow cold, treating God like a hobby or background activity.

3. **External pressures** – Cultural influences, false teaching, or the weight of life can dilute passion and focus.
4. **Settling for mediocrity** – A lack of urgency to grow in love can lead to a comfortable but spiritually shallow faith.

Spiritual Consequences of Leaving your First Love: *The spiritual consequences of losing or leaving your first love could be all of these...*

1. **Mechanical obedience** instead of joyful devotion
2. **Loss of joy** in worship and service
3. **Compromised witness** and **vulnerability** to sin or false teaching
4. **Spiritual dullness**—prayer feels empty, Scripture lacks flavor, and fellowship feels routine

How to Recover

Jesus' solution to Ephesus was **remember, repent, and return** (Revelation 2:5):

1. **Remember** - Recall the joy and passion of your first love.
2. **Repent** - Acknowledge complacency and return to heartfelt devotion.
3. **Return** - Rekindle the service, worship, and love that once defined your faith.

In short, leaving first love is not always about overt sin—it's often about **cooling affection**. Without love, faith becomes empty ritual; with love, it becomes vibrant, purposeful, and life-giving.

Sadly, that is a reality for some believers... some don't go on in their faith and lose their dynamic closeness and love for the Lord.

- They grow bitter at God because of their trials.
- Some fall prey to false teachers, who offer them health and prosperity if they just have enough faith.
- Some get sucked in by the cults.
- Others settle in for routine Christianity, like a routine marriage, where they go through the motions, but they don't enjoy the love of Jesus.
- They fill the void by collecting more things that promise to make them happy.
- Some succumb to temptation, thinking that an affair will bring happiness and fulfillment.

So the question is, "How do you go on with Christ? How do you keep that first love fresh and vital over the long haul?" In Colossians 2:6-7, Paul gives us a simple, but not simplistic, answer...

"⁶ As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, ⁷ rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving." -Colossians 2:6-7 (NKJV)

KEY THOUGHT: *We go on with Christ in the same way we received Him*

Paul says in verse 6, “*As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him.*” In the context, Paul is not focusing so much on the means of how you received Christ (by grace through faith), but rather on the Christ whom you received.

- The false teachers were trying to set aside or minimize Jesus Christ with their clever philosophies.
- They probably weren’t overtly denying Christ, but they were saying that to be fulfilled, you had to learn their secrets.
- You had to follow their manmade rules.
- You had to worship the angels and understand the visions that they had seen (Col. 2:18, 20-23).
- Christ alone was not enough.

So in chapter 1, Paul exalts Jesus Christ as all-sufficient and supreme over all...

- In Christ, we have “*redemption, the forgiveness of sins*” (Col. 1:14).
- He is “*the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation*” (Col. 1:15), which as Paul immediately explains, means that He created all things that exist.
- He also is the head of His body, the church.
- God’s intention is that Jesus Christ will come to have first place in everything, because He shares the fullness of God (Col. 1:16-19).
- Even though we were alienated from God and hostile to Him, Christ reconciled us to God through His death (Col. 1:21-22).
- It was *that* Christ whom Paul proclaimed and in whom the Colossians had believed through Epaphras’ preaching.
- It was *that* Christ who dwelled in the Colossians, whom Paul proclaimed so that he might present every person mature in Christ (Col. 1:27-28).
- If they wanted to avoid the errors of the false teachers, then they needed to go on walking with this same Christ Jesus the Lord whom they had received.
- If we want to go on with Christ without succumbing to the many false teachers in our day, or without falling into sin, or drifting into spiritual apathy, then we must go on with this exalted, all-sufficient, Christ in the same way we received Him.

Who, then, is this Christ and how did we receive Him? That is what Paul is getting at in our passage in Colossians 2:6-7. Let’s consider what Paul is telling us about Christ and how we received Him.

2 Simple Truths About Who Christ Is and How We Received Him:

- 1. Christ Jesus the Lord is the one whom we received**
- 2. We go on walking with Him as Christ Jesus the Lord**

CHRIST JESUS THE LORD IS THE ONE WHOM WE RECEIVED

The order of the name, Christ Jesus the Lord is significant...

The Order of the Name Paul Gives Us and It's Significance:

1. We received Him as the **Christ** - The One we received is first of all the Christ, the Messiah, the Anointed One.

“Christ” is the Greek for “Anointed One”

“Messiah” is the Hebrew for “Anointed One”

He is the one prophesied of in the Hebrew Scriptures, written centuries before He was born. He is God's anointed King, Prophet, and Priest.

3 Important Things to Remember About Jesus as Prophet, Priest and King:

- (1) **As God's anointed King, Jesus is appointed to reign as the sovereign of the universe** - God has put His Son on the throne at His right hand and will give Him the nations as His inheritance and the very ends of the earth as His possession (Ps. 2:6-8; Ps. 110:1). One day every enemy will bow before Him as King of kings and Lord of lords (Phil. 2:9-11; Rev. 19:16). He will throw the devil and all who follow him into the lake of fire (Rev. 20:10-15). No power in heaven or earth can stand against Him (Eph. 1:20-22). He is God's anointed King!
- (2) **As God's anointed Prophet, Jesus speaks for God as the prophet, par excellence** - Being one with the Father from all eternity and sent by the Father to do His will, Jesus is uniquely qualified to reveal the Father to us (John 10:30; 1:18; 8:38; 14:9). He spoke with authority about heaven and hell, about eternal life and about every aspect of this life. Being God in human flesh (John 1:14), He is omniscient and without sin, so that all that He speaks is both true and authoritative. He is God's anointed Prophet.
- (3) **As God's anointed Priest, Jesus mediates between God and man** - Paul writes in 1 Timothy 2:5-6, *“For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.”* He offers the blood sacrifice which the holiness of God demands as the means of approaching Him. But unlike the Old Testament priests, who offered the blood of animals and who had to offer sacrifices for their own sins, Jesus offered His own blood for the sins of the world (John 1:29; Heb. 7:26-28). As a priest after the order of Melchizedek, Jesus' priesthood replaces and supersedes the Levitical priests. They offered repeated sacrifices year after year, which could never make perfect those who draw near. But Jesus offered Himself once for all, providing complete forgiveness for all who trust in Him (Heb. 10:1-18). *This* Christ, the anointed King, Prophet, and Priest, as revealed in the Scriptures, is the one whom the Colossians had received. Paul is arguing that they must not—we must not—turn aside to any other so-called

“Christ” or human philosophy. Christ provides a full and complete salvation for all who believe in Him.

2. **We received Him as Jesus** - Jesus is His human... earthly name. When the angel announced to Joseph Mary's conception by the Holy Spirit, he said (Matt. 1:21), “*You shall call His name Jesus, for it is He who will save His people from their sins.*” Jesus is the Greek form of the Hebrew “*Joshua*,” which means, “*Yahweh saves.*” Jesus said (Luke 19:10), “*For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.*”

Some Reminders About Salvation:

- (1) **Although we toss around the word “salvation” as a common term, we need to remember that it is a radical word** – Perhaps we take “salvation” for granted and short-change the powerful implication we are talking about when we speak of salvation. We treat it far too casually!
- (2) **Good people who just need a little advice or guidance do not perceive their need salvation** – Or are not looking for it anyway. They don't recognize their need.
- (3) **People who are functioning pretty well on their own do not think of their need to be saved** – Again, at least they don't think they do... they don't see it!
- (4) **Self-righteousness blinds us to our need for Jesus to save us from our sins -**
- (5) **But sinners who are lost and alienated from the holy God, unable to do anything to be reconciled to Him, know that they need to be rescued or saved from God's righteous wrath against their sin** – We need the Holy Spirit to quicken and awaken us to our need for salvation. If you want to know how to pray for the lost, pray that the Lord would cause the scales to fall from their eyes and for them to see their need for salvation through the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

The Bible says that while God is a personal God, at the same time

- He “*dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see*” (1 Tim. 6:16).
- “*God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all*” (1 John 1:5).
- He is so holy that when the godly prophet Isaiah saw Him on His throne, he cried out (Isa. 6:5), “*Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.*”

So the question is, how can we know and be close to such a holy God?

How Can We Know and Be Close to a Holy God:

- (1) **Through Jesus Christ coming** - The good news is that “*Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners*” (1 Tim. 1:15).

- (2) **Through the cross of Christ** - *"He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross"* (1 Pet. 2:24). If you know that you're a sinner, cry out to Jesus to save you from God's judgment.
- (3) **Through calling of Christ for salvation** - The Bible promises (Rom. 10:13), *"Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved."* Christ Jesus is the only Savior God has provided for helplessly lost sinners.

3. **We received Him as the Lord** - The Colossians received Him as Christ Jesus, but also as *"the Lord."*

Significance of the Name "Lord" Jesus Christ:

- (1) **Lord speaks of Jesus' deity** - *"Lord"* refers to His deity. In the Old Testament it is the personal covenant name of God.
- (2) **Lord speaks of Jesus' sovereignty** - It focuses on His absolute sovereignty as the Creator of the universe, the ruler over all that exists.
- (3) **Lord speaks of Jesus' complete command over us** - It means that what He commands we must obey.
- (4) **Lord speaks of Jesus' omniscience** - He made us and knows everything about us. His commands are not burdensome, to plague us. He know us, our gifts our talents... what is good for us and what is not good for us. His commands to us are perfect, right, and for our good (Ps. 19:7-11; Rom. 7:12; 1 John 5:3).

KEY THOUGHT: If you think that you can receive Jesus as your Savior and wait until later to consider the option of receiving Him as Lord, you may not have received Him at all.

To receive Him as Savior means receiving Him for who He is; and He is the rightful Lord of all. All history revolves around Him and will be consummated in Him for His glory (Eph. 1:10-11; Col. 1:16-20). When He comes again in power and glory, He will conquer all His enemies and bring salvation for His saints (Rev. 19:1-21). The Colossians (and we) have received Christ Jesus the Lord. Paul is saying that they (and we) must not trade this sovereign Lord for a false substitute, a "Christ" of man's vain philosophizing. We received Christ Jesus the Lord. We must continue with Him alone, as He is revealed in His Word.

- 4. **We received Him** - The word *"received"* means *"to receive as transmitted"* from their teachers.
 - Paul received the gospel directly from Jesus Christ (Gal. 1:12).
 - He passed it on to others, such as Epaphras, who took it to the Colossians.
 - They received the testimony of Epaphras by trusting in Christ Jesus the Lord, whom he proclaimed.
 - There is an important point to this...

What to Remember About the Gospel:

- (1) The gospel that saves us is not a human philosophy, based on the speculations of religious wise men.
- (2) The gospel that saves us was transmitted to us from Jesus Christ through His chosen apostles, recorded in the New Testament.
- (3) The gospel that saves us is the testimony about a unique person, Jesus Christ the Lord.
- (4) When we believe the gospel, we don't just believe a body of doctrines, although that is true.
- (5) When we believe the gospel we receive Christ Jesus the Lord personally.

We recognize who He is and we welcome Him into our lives as our Savior from sin and as our rightful Lord. Of course, the Christian life is a process of growing deeper in the knowledge of who Jesus is and how we can live in a way that is pleasing to Him (Col. 1:10). But as imperfect as our initial understanding may be, we must receive Jesus Christ as Lord. Saving faith is more than just intellectual assent, where you add Him into your life as a nice accessory to have on hand when you need a little help. No, you must receive Christ Jesus the Lord, in all that that means. He owns you because He bought you with His blood (1 Cor. 6:19-20). He is the one you must go on with as a Christian. But how?

WE GO ON WALKING WITH HIM AS CHRIST JESUS THE LORD

⁶ As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, ⁷ rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. -Colossians 2:6-7 (NKJV)

Paul wrote, ***⁶ As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him.***

- ***“Walk”*** is in the present tense, indicating an ongoing process.
- It's a frequent word for describing the Christian life (Eph. 4:1, 17; 5:2, 8, 15).
- Walking isn't as impressive or quick as running, galloping, or flying, but if you keep walking in a deliberate direction, eventually you'll get there.
- It implies a daily, steady, step-by-step effort and progress toward a goal.
- We are to walk ***“in Him,”*** that is, in all that Jesus is for us as we are in Him.

In verse 7, Paul uses four participles to elaborate on what this walk in Christ looks like...

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What the Christian Walk Looks Like in 4 Participles: “⁷rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving..”

- (1) **Walk rooted** - The first participle, “*rooted*,” is in the perfect tense, indicating a past action with continuing results... in other words we are to continuously “*rooted*”... you were and still are *rooted* in Him.
- (2) **Walk built up** - The second participle, “*built up*,” is in the present tense, indicating an ongoing process... you are being *built up* in Him. You are to be being built up ongoingly... constantly. *How does this happen, do you think?*
- (3) **Walk established** - The third participle, “*established*,” is in the present tense, indicating an ongoing process... you are being *established* in the faith.
- (4) **Walk abounding** - The fourth participle, “*abounding*,” is in the present tense, indicating again an ongoing process and you are *abounding* with thanksgiving. The first three participles are in the passive voice, emphasizing that God is working these things in us. The final participle is active, pointing to our responsibility to be thankful.

Note that Paul uses a variety of metaphors:

- (1) **Walking on a path** – As believers we are to keep to the “straight and narrow” path, but we are to keep walking, step by step, and not stop or give up along the way
- (2) **Being rooted like a tree** – The roots of our Christian faith should grow deeper and deeper through the study of God’s Word, through time spent in the presence of the Lord in prayer, through commitment and growth in the company of other believers (His church).
- (3) **Being built up like a building under construction** – We are to continue to build our faith brick by brick, sturdy and strong in the Lord.
- (4) **Overflowing like a flooding river** – There should be an overflow of the Christian life into the lives of others.

There isn’t a logical connection. Rather, Paul is showing us from different angles what it means to go on walking with Christ Jesus the Lord in the same way we received Him. Let’s look briefly at each of them:

Walking with Christ:

- (1) **To walk with Christ Jesus the Lord means being rooted in Him** - This pictures a tree, firmly rooted so that it gets the water and nutrients from the soil to grow and be healthy. It can withstand the storms that blow against it and endure times of drought because of its roots. The roots are hidden from view, but they are absolutely essential. Without those deep roots, the tree will fall over in a storm or die during a drought. When we genuinely trust in Christ, God roots us in Him, but we need to continually sink down more roots into Him. This is the hidden part of your walk with Christ that others don’t see. It refers to your heart before God and your time alone with Him. Some go to church and act like Christians. Outwardly, it seems that they are Christians. But in the hidden person of their heart, they have never truly trusted in Jesus as their Savior and Lord. They never spend

time alone with Him, seeking Him in His Word and in prayer. Then a storm comes up and they crash. They weren't rooted in Christ. Are you sinking down roots in Him?

- (2) **To walk with Christ Jesus the Lord means being built up in Him** - This pictures a building under construction. The present participle indicates steady progress toward completion. If you've watched a building under construction, sometimes the progress is evident: the frame goes up or the roof goes on. At other times, you wonder, "What did they do there this week?" They were inside working on things you couldn't see, like the wiring or plumbing. But they are essential for the finished building to function properly. When you walk with the Lord, sometimes there are obvious changes that others can easily see. More often, the Lord is steadily at work on areas that aren't as dramatic, but are just as necessary. We learn to trust and obey Him on little, daily matters. We judge our grumbling spirit. We put to death the lusts of the flesh. We speak kindly to others, even when they are mean towards us. We're gradually being built up in Him.
- (3) **To walk with Christ Jesus the Lord means being established in the faith** - "In the faith" could be translated "in your faith," but in light of the context of false teachers and the next phrase, "just as you were instructed," I think Paul means being established in the Christian faith, that is, in sound doctrine. The word "establish" was sometimes used as a legal term meaning, "to confirm, guarantee, or make irrevocable." Here, Paul may be looking at the growing assurance that we gain as we grow to understand the irrevocable truths of God's Word. You learn the guaranteed promises that God has given to us in Christ. Your growing knowledge of sound doctrine protects you against the many winds of false teaching that blow others off course. To go on with Christ, you must make a deliberate effort to be established in the faith.
- (4) **To walk with Christ Jesus the Lord means overflowing with gratitude** - The picture here is a river overflowing its banks. There is just too much water to stay in the normal flow, so it floods out over the surrounding land. Our gratitude to God for all that He's done for us in Christ should flood out onto those around us. Over the years, I've had to fight constantly against grumbling. I think I've made progress, but I'm still prone to grumble when things don't go as I want them to go. Like the Israelites in the wilderness, instead of thanking God for delivering me from bondage to sin and providing me with all the blessings of His salvation, I complain about the little things. But as I think about my salvation and all that God has done for me, I should be overflowing with gratitude to Him for His abundant grace.

In Colossians, Paul repeatedly emphasizes thankfulness. As we saw (Col. 1:12), we should be *"giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saint in Light."* (See, also, Col. 1:3; 3:15, 16; 4:2.) **The application is that grumblers will be more susceptible to the lure of false teaching.** In my marriage, if I'm thankful for Nancy and delight in her, I'm less susceptible to the temptations of another woman. With the Lord, a grateful heart that is satisfied daily with His abundant blessings won't be attracted by false teaching.

CONCLUSION

Again, this August, Nancy and I will celebrate 43 years of marriage. What began so wonderfully all those years ago has continued and gotten even better. How has that happened? Well, we've gone on in the same way we started: I'm hopelessly infatuated with her and she tolerates me!

Are you going on with Christ Jesus the Lord in the same way you received Him?

How to Go On in Christ From this Day Forward:

- 1. Don't lose your first love for the wonderful, exalted Savior who loves you and gave Himself for you -**
- 2. If your love for Him has cooled and you're just in routine Christianity, take the time to sit again at His feet -**
- 3. Think about how it was when you first received Him. Meditate on His beauty and grace. Ask Him to take you deeper in growth in Him -**
- 4. And, if you've never received Christ Jesus the Lord, why not do that right now -**