

**Title:** Over All – What Do I Do, Now that I’m a Christian?

**Text:** Colossians 2:6-7

**Date:** April 25, 2021

## INTRO.

**Background.** Paul is thrilled that the Gospel has gotten to Colossae (Col 1:3-6) and changed many lives.

- Epaphras was saved in Ephesus...returns to Colossae...starts a church.
- Many are hearing about Christ and believing the Gospel.

But Paul revealed at the beginning of Col 2:1 that the Gospel growth at Colossae has come at great personal cost to him (Growth for the church has meant suffering for Paul).

- Most believe it’s Paul’s burden/concern over the growing threat of false teaching.
- But there is also the fact of Paul’s imprisonment for preaching the Gospel.

Paul is not negative, or even speaking with a tone of regret.

But he’s honest about this fact → the expansion of the Gospel...and the growth of the church...has caused suffering in his life.

- There is zero hesitancy in Paul’s writings about a willingness to suffer.
- To him...the suffering is worth it because it even further expanded the Gospel.

Gen 50:20, *What man meant for evil, God used for good.*

**FACT.** When the Gospel advances...you can count on the following:

1. Satan will hate us. Satan will oppose us.
2. At Colossae, Satan sent counterfeits (false teaching).
3. To Paul, Satan sent adversity (imprisonment).

**FACT.** Satan cannot stop Gospel growth and Church Advancement.

- Matt 16:18, *Jesus said, “I will build my church, and the gates of hades will not...”*

The resurrection of the Lord Jesus broke Satan’s back. When Christ rose, Satan knew his plans were doomed.

- In Eden, when man sinned – the consequence of sin was “death”
- But at the resurrection, when Christ rose – the reality of death’s sting was overcome!

1 Cor 15:54, *“Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, death, is your victory? Where, death, is your sting? ... Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

Satan cannot reverse the truth of the Gospel, the cross, or the empty tomb. He knows Jesus will get the last word. So therefore he will do everything he can to:

- Stall our progress.
- Bring discouragement.
- Kill our boldness and our joy.

**First, Paul acknowledged the Colossians did in fact receive Jesus Christ as Lord (2:6a).**

Notice this word, “You received Christ Jesus the Lord.”

“Received” = to accept the offer...to receive what was put within reach. It doesn’t mean it was forced upon us. But it does mean we accepted what was available.

**Q:** WHEN did I receive him?

**A:** You get saved (born again)...you receive Jesus one time for salvation, but you then remain His child for a lifetime.

**Q:** WHEN do I receive him?

**A:** I receive him when my needy heart...says yes by faith...to God’s gracious invitation for Jesus Christ to save me.

- The moment I truly trust in Jesus, and in Jesus alone, for my salvation!
- Psalm 46:10, “*Cease striving and know that I am God.*”
- Isaiah 45:22, “*Turn to me and be saved.*”

**Q:** HOW do I receive him?

**A:** There are several important factors here to true, biblical salvation.

- The Spirit’s divine initiative. I can’t get saved without the Spirit drawing me (John 6:63).
- Repentance is essential to salvation (Matt 4:17).
- I must believe/confess Christ’s name (Rom 10:9, 13).
- Hearing the Word of God and responding by faith is what saves me (Rom 10:17).
- The Spirit of God removes the blinders from my eyes, so I see my need for salvation.
  - Acts 9:18 and Psalm 119:18.

HOW do I receive Him? Notice what Paul says is Col 2:6 –

- I receive Him as Christ Jesus my Lord.
- “Lord of all...or not Lord at all.” → It means, “Master.”
- Christ = Anointed One, Messiah.
- Jesus = Savior.
- Lord = Authority, power, control.

I am saved whenever I put my faith in Jesus – the One who is Able, Willing, Deserving.

**Q:** WHAT does it look like when I get saved?

**A:** There is a change of heart and habit. My desires and behaviors change.

Am I perfect after I'm saved? No! But I feel conviction and I know God is with me.

2 Cor 5:17 (new creation) and John 15:4-5 (He produces new fruit in me).

**Second, for Christians, Jesus is not just our Savior for a moment; He is our Lord for a lifetime (2:6b).**

Notice the language here → “*Continue to live in Him.*”

Salvation is NOT the finish line. Salvation is the starting line!

“Continue to live” = literally, “Be ye walking.”

- Walk in Christ. Walk for Christ. Walk by Christ. Walk near/with Christ.
- Entirety of my life is to be “Walking in Him.”
- Don't veer off the path. Remain steady!

It also means → my movement/activity in life is to be tied to God's activity/movement.

- ILLUS: Exodus narrative – cloud by day, and pillar of fire by night.
- ILLUS: Harmful effects of sedentary lifestyle. Our parents/forefathers were always moving. But for us, it's all about delivery (Amazing, Uber Eats, etc). We never even have to leave our house...and it's made us spiritually lazy!

Acts 17:28, “For in Him, we move, exist, and have our being...For we are His offspring.”

**My friends – perhaps we need a new measuring stick for our spiritual lives?**

Total Christlikeness. Phil 3:14, “*I pursue as my goal the prize promised by God's heavenly call in Christ Jesus.*”

Total sanctification. 1 Thess 5:23, “Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely. And may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Complete personal holiness. 1 Peter 1:16, “*For it is written, Be holy, because I am holy.*”

Perhaps this is an appropriate time for an old church word: backslidden. Are you backslidden?

- Do we easily allow ourselves to get lazy, take our eyes off Jesus, and fall back into our old, sinful habits?

I'm not trying to tell anyone here that they are “not” saved...BUT → shame on us if we say we're saved...but we don't have any deep conviction about looking more like Christ!

- 2 Cor 13:5, *Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith.*

**Third, Paul told the Colossians that God provides the grace, and we respond with gratitude (2:7).** Col 2:7 is very important. It contains four participles that modify the primary verb from Col 2:6.

In 2:6, Paul said, “Continue to live in Him...walk in Him.”

In 2:7, Paul gives us a vivid picture of what this life in Christ will look like.

**3 passive participles.** Each of these are in the passive tense, which means we are acted upon. It means that God will do this to us or for us.

- God is the action...and our life is the result.

Rooted – (agriculture). → Be planted in fertile soil.

Built up – (construction). → Must get the house foundation right. The height/expansion is possible...only when the foundation is deep and firm.

Established – (education, certification, confirmation). → God will literally teach us all we need to know.

What a good word to those who are fearful (in danger) of falling into false teaching.

The Lord Himself will → put roots in your faith...build your foundation...confirm your position.

God will not only save us! HE will also provide for us and sustain us!

**And there is one participle in Col 2:7 in the active tense.** Which means – “we” must do this...we are responsible for the personal action here.

- And the word is gratitude.

God is responsible for grace/growth...BUT...we are responsible for the response of gratitude!

Gratitude here is linked to overflowing because of our increasing knowledge of God’s activity.

- God is full of goodness.
- So naturally, I am to be full of gratitude.

**Bottom Line** → Paul told the Colossians that since they’d received Jesus, they should remain in Him and seek maturity.

**Big Idea.** What am I supposed to do, now that I’m a believer? After you receive Jesus, continue growing deeper, with joy and gratitude, for the rest of your life.

**Application and Conclusion.**

**First**, have you received Jesus Christ as the Lord of your life?

- When was it? What did you say? How has your life been different?

**Second**, where are you on the lifelong pursuit of walking with Jesus? Active? Spectator? Poser?

**Third**, are there definitive marks of maturity, that are obvious to you and those who know you, that you are in Jesus Christ, and He is in you?