

## Rooted in Christ

Rooted means to be embedded, firmly established, established deeply. If we see very high trees we know that they can't be blown over by the wind easily because their roots go down deep into the ground. The taller the trees the deeper the roots. They can't be easily uprooted. Not only do they go deep but their roots spread creating a vast network of underground roots making it more difficult for the tree to be uprooted. So it is when we are truly rooted in Christ.

Colossians 2: 1 – 8

### 1) Knowing Christ (1 – 3)

- We ought to be contending – working hard against all odds – to bring the church to maturity.
  - Those we know as well as those we don't know.
  - Those we've met and those we haven't met.
  - This doesn't mean that we should go to other churches and start imposing our teaching on them.
  - It means that we should take the God given opportunities that God gives us to bring out the godly traits in all believers. To teach those who have wrong teaching. To rebuke those in sin.
- We don't do anything arrogantly as "no-it-all's" but in humility for every person's benefit and ultimately the glory of God.
- What is our goal in such contending?
  - The believers may be encouraged in heart
  - United in love
  - Complete understanding
- The final goal is for everyone to know Christ – the mystery of God.
  - God doesn't want us to know about Christ. He wants us to know Him. It's personal not merely intellectual.
  - John 5: 39 – 40 You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life.
  - John 17 : 3 Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

### 2) Not being led away from Christ (4 , 8)

- Jesus warned us against deception (Matthew 24: 5) and Paul was merely reiterating what He had said stating real situations.
  - 2 Corinthians 11: 3 But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.
  - It isn't necessarily being led astray into sin but from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.
  - 2 Timothy 3: 1 – 5 But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.
- In this last week I read about a pastor who gave his congregation dog meat for communion and he had previously given them snake for communion.

- I then read the horrific story of a friend who was sexually harassed when she was 15 by a pastor who was living with her family.
- I started my ministry under a ministry that had been deceived and had left the faith to follow a form of godliness but had left their devotion to Christ for a form of legalism.
- Deception is subtle and that's why we have to watch out for it.
  - It contains enough truth to make us think it's true but it's slightly off focus leading us astray.

### 3) Rooted in Christ (5 – 7)

- Being saved doesn't necessarily mean that our lives have been rooted in Christ. It means that we are in Christ but with shallow roots that are still very vulnerable.
- As we grown in maturity in Christ our roots in Him deepen and we get more and more established in Him and can withstand outside influences that we attempt to draw us away from our sincere and pure devotion to Him.
- There are some prerequisites for is to deepen our roots in Him
  - Discipline
  - Firming our faith
    - Faith comes from the word of God
    - Faith increases by seeing God at work in our lives in real ways and how He is faithful to His word.
    - Faith is looking at Jesus the author and finisher of our faith
- It is not enough to receive Christ as Lord but to continue – be occupied – in Him.
  - Many obstacles will be thrown in our way to desert Christ by persevere in Him
- Be rooted and built up in Him
  - In order to be built up in Him we have to first be rooted in Him
  - A tree cannot grow without roots
  - Without Christ we cannot do anything.
  - He is the vine and we are the branches.
- The result of being strengthened in our faith is that we live lives of gratitude.