

COLOSSIANS TWO, SIX

Intro: Our verse tonight is definitely for those, and only for those, who have received the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. This is what the verse says.

It is wonderful because:

- 1) It deals with the one subject which is of pre-eminent importance to every child of God: the way we are to live, and how it is to be done! Our walk!
- 2) Of its great simplicity.

The term, walk, is borrowed from the OT. Cf. Gen. 5:22, 24; 6:9; 17:1; Deut. 5:33. It is a synonym for live.

It is also found scattered throughout the NT: 3 John 4; Gal. 5:16; Rom. 4:12; 6:4; 8:4; Eph. 2:10; 4:1, 17; 5:2, 8, 15.

The real standard of a NT walk is found in 1 John 2:6, "He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked."

In the OT we have such expressions as,

- 1) Walking with God.
- 2) Walking before God.
- 3) Walking after God.

But this is something new: walking in Him!

What does it all mean?

First we have

I. A COMPARISON AND A SIMILARITY: "As . . . , so (understood in the Gk).

How were we saved?

Let us answer first by saying what salvation is not!

- 1) It is not by our good works.
- 2) It certainly is not because we ourselves are good.
- 3) It is not because we joined anything. No church can save us.
- 4) It is not through the development of anything that was in us.
- 5) It was not even through the acceptance of certain doctrines--although doctrine is important.

PAUL IS VERY SPECIFIC HERE. WE WERE SAVED THROUGH RECEIVING A PERSON: "Christ Jesus the Lord." His full name is given here because of the problems that were being faced in the Colossian Church.

You can believe everything about Jesus Christ, but until you receive Him you are not saved! Cf. Jas. 2:19, "The demons believe, and tremble"--but they are not saved!

Cf. John 1:12, 13; 1 John 5:11, 12; John 3:16.

Receiving is believing. Why did we trust Him? Because we came to understand that this is what the Word of God teaches and this is the only answer to our need. Christ is the only One who can save us!

Now for the second part of the comparison . . .

"So walk ye in Him."

Here we are reminded again of what happens to us the moment we are saved: WE ARE PUT IN CHRIST! Compare this with David who "encouraged himself in the Lord his God" (1 Sam. 30:6b). How different it is to be "in Him." Cf. 2 Cor. 5:17.

AND IT IS NOT SOMETHING WHICH WE DO FOR OURSELVES; IT IS WHAT GOD DOES FOR US!

Just as we were saved by trusting the Lord to do something for us which we could not do for ourselves, so now we are to live, to walk step by step, with our faith in Him to enable us to live in a way that is far above what we could ever do for Him in our own strength!

And this applies to every detail of our walk. Cf. Col. 1:10; 3:7; 4:5.

But we want to know more about how this is possible. Therefore, we look at the next verse for

II. A FULLER EXPLANATION (Col. 2:7).

This is still a part of what Paul is saying in v. 6.

We received, and we are to walk, as in this verse we are to excel in thanksgiving. These are all our part--but even then not done without the enabling grace of God!

Is thanksgiving something which you excel in? Although you know you are not perfect, are you really happy tonight about your walk with the Lord, so that you find yourself thanking God continually?

How can this be?

This is where three verbs become very, very important.

They are: "rooted . . . built up . . . established."

Not one of these is something that we do for ourselves; ALL ARE THINGS WHICH GOD DOES FOR US.

And even among them there is an important difference to be noted!

A. "Rooted."

This speaks of something which takes place underneath the ground. The figure of speech has to do with a plant. BUT WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT IS THAT PAUL HERE IS TALKING ABOUT SOMETHING WHICH TAKES PLACE "once for all." It is done once and never needs to be repeated. It is an eternal work. We are firmly rooted in Christ!

This means that, just as a plant draws nourishment from the ground in which it is planted, so we draw our life and strength from the Lord Jesus Christ for we are planted once and for all in Him!

Every child of God needs to understand this so that He will not be looking for something outside of Christ for his life and strength. Cf. Col. 2:9, 10.

The next two words do not speak of something that has been done once and for all time, but of that which is taking place constantly in the life of the child of God as he walks in Christ.

B. "Built up in Him."

You will see immediately that the figure of speech has been changed. We are no longer talking about the roots of a plant, BUT ABOUT A BUILDING!

The roots go down; the building goes up.

The roots cannot be seen, but a building can!

Every child of God is a building in the process of construction--and what slow work this is. How unattractive a building can be under construction!

God is the general contractor, and the chief architect! But how does the building progress?

This is where we come to our third word:

C. "Established in the faith."

What does "established" add to the idea of being "built up"? Just this: IT MEANS THAT WHAT IS BUILT UP IS THERE TO STAY!

But how are we to be established? How is the building strengthened? It is "in the faith"--a statement which we could almost say is a technical term in the NT for the teachings of the NT.

It is the Word that strengthens us. It is through the Word that we grew. It is through the Word that we learn how we are to live, and it is through the Word that we are given the strength to live that way.

Concl: Just as I received the Lord in order to be saved, so now I must receive from Him day by day in order to be able to live, to walk, in a manner that will be pleasing to Him.

Apart from Him I could not be saved. Apart from Him now I cannot please Him in anything I do!