

Colossians 2:6-10 | Dave Stough

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[0 : 00] We welcome you to the media ministry of Bethel Community Church, Knowing Jesus, Making Jesus Known. This morning, we continue our study on the New Testament book of Colossians.

It's good to be back in God's house today. As you know, I'm not talking about the building. I'm talking about being with God's people. I haven't been able to be here that much.

I guess it's been two of the last three previous weeks. I either were sick or we had something special this last week, Andrew. Timing is getting, there we go.

Lookie there. Yeah. So, needless to say, we were a little occupied. Well, last Sunday, actually, we thought birth was being, but it wound up being not true, then it came Tuesday.

So, her name is Lewa, which is Nigerian for beautiful. So, we have been touring through Colossians. I think it's been, this is eight weeks now.

[1 : 06] And today, as J. Vernon McGee would say, the Bible bus stops. The tour stops in chapter 2, verse 6 through 10. If you have your Bible or your Bible app, you can open it up to the book of Colossians there.

We'll be going through a few verses in chapter 1 in a minute. Our text in chapter 6 has the word, therefore, so we want to go back and look in the chapter before and see why that word is there. Now, keep in mind, excuse me, that in Colossians, the purpose that Paul was writing his letter is to straighten out some bad doctrine that the Gnostics presented people that they were taking, considering, I suppose, or it had affected the church somehow.

Now, the Gnostics claimed to have secret knowledge that only people who were close to the Lord would have that made them somehow more spiritual.

Now, the Gnostics believed that the physical world, this is kind of weird, but the Gnostics believed that the physical world is evil, that all matter, as we call it today, in and of itself, and the good things are spirit.

[2 : 30] They tried to create a false separation or a false dichotomy between the physical and the spiritual. So, as a result, they denied that Christ bodily rose from the dead.

And they had a system set up where they exalted themselves and not Him because it eventually led to that He's just another, as it was said weeks ago, rung on the ladder, and they worship angels. They would consider Him to be equal to an angel. So, this resulted in them having this thought that they had, they were kind of like monks, some of them, I understand, because they were into asceticism or the strict denial of the flesh by human effort, or they were into mystic meditation where they just tried to dwell in what they thought was the spirit world, and they could let the flesh do whatever they want.

So, there was two kind of Gnostics, the kind that didn't care about what the flesh did, and the other kind that... Either way, it was an exaltation of self and not Christ. Now, these teachings crept in and were taking people in Colossae away from walking with the Lord and from preaching the Gospel.

Now, we see in the first chapter, I'm going to go over a few verses that lead up to our text, that the Holy Spirit was proclaiming through Paul things about the character of Christ and about the Gospel.

[4 : 05] It says that He is the image of the invisible God. That means He's the physical representation of the invisible God. The one having authority over everything created, and all things were created by Him and for Him.

So, the Lord Jesus was not some special created being, but He is the Almighty Creator who came in the flesh. Paul mentions the blood of Christ in verse 14, blood that our Lord Jesus can only have in a human body as the means of forgiveness of sin, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sin.

So, Paul was going over Christ's deity and His humanity in that first chapter, which either the Gnostics denied or somehow distorted.

So, let's look at some other verses that talk about the treasure that we have in the Gospel. Verse 3 of chapter 1, or verse 4, actually 3, it says, We give thanks to God, and in verse 4, Since we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and the love which you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the Gospel, which has come to you just as in all the world, and is constantly bearing fruit and increasing, even as it has been doing in you, also since the day you heard of it, and understood the grace of God in truth. It goes on to say in verse 13, that we have been rescued from the domain of darkness and transferred into the kingdom of the Son of His love.

[5 : 59] These are things that we have because of the Gospel. So, would you think the Gnostics would go after the Gospel as well as the person of Christ?

You bet. Now, these are things that we have not because we earned them, but because God has done the work and has given them to us. Now, Paul, through the Holy Spirit, is trying to encourage believers to hold on to that Gospel, the message of having simple faith and a profound message, a simple but profound message.

He says in verse 23, to continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast and not be moved away from the hope of the Gospel that you have heard.

Now, our text in chapter 2, you want to pull that up on there? It's verses 6 through 10. I see these verses in Colossians as the instructions on the how to fight false doctrine.

Chapter 3 talks about seeking those things, since you have died with Christ, seek those things which are above, where your life is hidden. These are the how to do that.

[7 : 21] Some people call this the theme of Colossians. I see this practical instruction necessary for us to dwell in the realm of faith and to combat the lies of false doctrine.

Let's go ahead and look at Colossians. Read along with me, if you would, up here. Colossians 2, 6 through 10. Therefore, just as you receive Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him.

Let your roots grow down into Him and your lives be built upon Him. Then you will grow strong in the faith and live in the truth you were taught, overflowing with thankfulness.

Don't let anyone lead you away and capture you with worldly philosophy and empty, deceptive words that come from human reasoning and the basic spiritual forces belonging to this world, not coming from Christ.

For in Him all the fullness of deity dwells in a human body, and in Him you have been made complete. Who is the head over all power and authority?

[8 : 33] So, that first line in that verse 6, that first line is what I found myself when I was preparing this message.

I couldn't, there was so much there. It was, that's where I found myself spending most of the time. So receiving Christ is the beginning of eternal life.

The gospel is the foundation of that life, right? This is how we come to know the Lord and this is when He imparts life to us is when we believe the gospel.

And Paul is trying to say here, just the way you received Christ when you got saved is the same way you build upon the foundation. As you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him.

If you and I are to grow in Christ, we have to build on a foundation in a manner which is consistent with how it was laid.

[9 : 39] That's why it's important to make sure the foundation's right. I think we emphasize that here at Bethel. So what actually happened in our hearts and minds when we heard the word of the truth, the gospel?

Well, probably different things somewhat for people. I mean, there was, like Kevin says he was what, five or six or something like that. And then there was people, I was older when I got saved. But there are some very, there is a common theme in each of us when we heard the gospel. When we got saved, we came to faith in Christ.

When that happened, we out of necessity laid aside anything we may have previously thought we had to offer God for acceptance.

The gospel itself made us realize that we were missing something we needed. The Holy Spirit uses God's word to show us there's something missing.

[10 : 42] and that something is God himself. Genesis teaches that God created man in his own image. Part of that image is having an everlasting existence with the creator.

He made us to spend eternity with him. Because of sin separating us from God, an empty spot exists or existed within all of us.

Excuse me here. This empty spot, some philosophers, they call it a God-shaped vacuum.

Or something that God designed that's in us that we know something's missing. The book of Ecclesiastes puts it this way, he has said eternity in our hearts.

And it goes on to say in Ecclesiastes that when you look at what's being said, that a person feels like they're stuck here on this earth and it's meaningless. So we're kind of stuck in time and space, but he's put eternity in our hearts and we know that we can't be complete apart from him.

[11 : 56] Or at least we should know that. You and I can only be satisfied once we have fellowship with God through Jesus Christ.

Now most people in the world would admit they have sin. The problem though with the unsaved is that they won't admit sin is something they need to be delivered from or saved from.

Right? The world offers our fallen flesh I'm sorry, the world offers and our own flesh desires things to fill that void.

Money, drugs, sex, false religion, flawed relationships, the list goes on and on. These acts of sin, after a while, what they do is they only make you more aware that there's something missing in your life.

So when a God, I ask, remember, what happened in our hearts when we first believed the gospel? When God calls a sinner to repentance and faith in Christ, it is then that the awareness of sin, as God sees it, happens inside of us.

[13 : 16] It is then we realize that God is holy and offers only one way for us to be forgiven and relieved of our guilt. We came to realize and trust that Jesus died for our sin.

Now, maybe you're here today and you're not sure about that. That's okay. We welcome you. I would encourage you just to keep listening.

So our soul experienced the joy of unconditional grace as we reached out in faith. The only thing we did was just believe. We received the gift of forgiveness.

So when that happened, though, it was at that time we forsook our pride in any man-made concepts that we thought we had to offer God and we actually gave Him absolutely nothing.

we just believed. We believed as He revealed Himself to us. It was then that that emptiness was filled. It was then when we simply believed the Gospel that He came actually in the form of the Holy Spirit to live in us and His Spirit bore, it says in Romans, His Spirit bore witness or bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.

[14 : 42] He testifies Himself to us of the truth. Now, remember, our text says that just as you receive Christ Jesus, so that's the way you're to walk in Him.

So does that, I said that, you know, the unbeliever would admit they were sinned but they don't admit they need to be delivered from it because of pride. Well, that pride issue doesn't get eradicated from us when we get saved, does it?

It kind of crops back up in our thinking. It's very deceptive because our flesh, our hearts are deceptive. Our pride demands that we somehow participate in the process of walking with the Lord. That pride is still something we must admit and be careful to stay away as we seek to walk with Him. I'm not advocating we don't have responsibilities.

Please hear me out, okay? Getting saved, though, means just that. Getting saved. If a person is rescued from, has anybody ever watched somebody get saved from drowning?

[15 : 56] If you have, has anybody? Have you? Okay. Okay. That person who's getting rescued, if they attempt to participate in their own rescue, what I mean by that is if you ever try to come up to somebody that's drowning and they're trying to, they're just going to pull you down, right?

I remember when I was in the Navy, there was, I went through this search and rescue school and they were teaching us how to rescue people who fall overboard or down pilots and the first thing you learned was that you had to go in there and you had to get into the situation where yourself you wouldn't drown and the way you did that is you had to totally immobilize the person from trying to help you.

Now there's certain situations where that's easy. If a person's dying, he's going to die and he's trying to stay up and you offer him a life jacket, all he has to do is grab it, right?

Okay. Well at that point he quits trying, he just has the life jacket. If you don't have some kind of buoyancy device to give them and you have to grab them and drag them in, they teach you in that school the first thing you've got to do is you've got to get in close, let them grab you, take you down and then you've got to you know, you spin them and you grab them and you take them totally out of the equation so that they won't drown and you won't drown.

Right? And you have to do this certain kind of carry. So they will not participate. If they keep participating in their rescue, they will not make it. So one of the two, they have to come to the point where they totally give up in order to be rescued.

[17 : 44] Just in the same way, when we got saved, that was kind of the way it was when we got saved. We just grabbed hold of that life jacket. So in the same way, this is how we walk with the Lord.

He saves, He gives us the power. It's not, our sanctification depends on Him, not us. As I said before, I'm not trying to advocate that we don't have responsibilities walking with the Lord. Getting closer to Him and learning to stay close to Him and trusting Him doesn't happen by osmosis or, you know, you don't just neglect responsibilities.

You get up and you seek the Lord. Now this, this same truth though is all throughout the New Testament. There's a few other verses. The Holy Spirit tells people to go back to the Gospel for the power.

in the book of Galatians, for example, chapter 1, verses 6 and 7. He says, I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ to a different Gospel.

[19 : 01] Which is not another, but there are some who would trouble you and want to pervert the Gospel. He says later in the book, did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law or by the hearing of faith?

In 2 Corinthians, chapter 11, it says, excuse me, however, I am afraid that just as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may somehow be lured away from the simplicity that we have in Christ.

1 John 2, 24-26 says, so you must remain faithful to what you have been taught from the beginning. If you do, you will remain in fellowship with the Son and with the Father.

And in this fellowship, we enjoy eternal life as He promised us. I am writing these things to you to warn you about those who want to lead you astray.

So what I'm saying here is that we are powerless to even grow in Christ unless we humbly go back to the type of reliance and faith that we had to have when we got saved.

[20 : 24] It's God's love, not our love. It's God's power, not our... It's God's wisdom, not our wisdom. And you can go down the line. All those fruits of the Spirit, all those things that we have in Christ, you've got to remember it's the Gospel that delivered unto us.

And you've got to remember the type of attitude that God produced in you to have to receive it. So when we are being responsible to walk with the Lord, we seek Him.

We are told to study, so we study. We are told to know the Word so we can get to know Him. We are told to exercise faith and obey.

Well, we have to go back to that Gospel. So, there is that song that Casting Crowns has that says leave it all behind.

and the world tries to give you something to offer. But you've got to come to the well. You've got to go back to the well. It's a beautiful song when you start thinking about the Gospel.

[21 : 36] So, what happens though if you're like me and you decide that you're going to do some things your way? Or maybe somehow you've been convinced that things depend on you and that you have to prove to God your worthiness.

Have you ever had those thoughts as a Christian? They're not from the Lord. That's why He saved you because you're not worthy. Either way though, if you have either of those kind of thoughts, it's pride.

I've got to be careful not to let those thoughts creep back in my mind. Now, the text, can you pull that next picture up of the tree? The text says, let your roots grow down into Him and let your lives be built upon Him so that you be strong in the faith and live in the truth that you were taught.

So, here's a good picture. I learned some things about trees just yesterday. Okay. So, these trees. This is a picture of a healthy tree. And, first of all, notice how much bigger the area is below the soil where the roots are than the visible part of the tree you see.

[22 : 59] Also, notice, so if we want to, in our picture here, that good soil is the gospel. The tree is our life. Okay. Now, one thing I learned about trees is a tree will first try to do what they call a tap root when it's growing.

That means it'll try to grow straight down. And if the soil is good, it'll grow straight down. And that's where it'll get its primary nutrients from. And the roots will spread out.

They'll feed it through the tap root and then there goes the tree up real good. Okay. So, as a growing Christian, we want to put our tap root back into the truth of that gospel.

Back into the attitude we had when we got saved. Just like that tree is going down into good soil. All the other, well you can keep that up there.

You can keep that up there for a minute. Okay. Okay. All the other roots that are coming off of there are supportive roots that feed, they all kind of go centralized back through that main truth.

[24 : 07] Now, as I was saying before, the visible part of the tree is the beautiful part. That's where we admire the beauty and if it has fruit, that's where the fruit is.

It's up there. Okay. So, a tree will be like that though if it has roots like this. We should spend our time, this is kind of neat because this is biblical, this is the other part of John 15 about abiding.

We need to focus on putting our roots in Christ and learning about Him through the means of that gospel, spreading out that truth and rejoicing in those things.

and the fruit will naturally come there as we're doing that. And then the other thing is you can notice about the tree is a healthy tree has deep roots so when the winds like, you know, hurricane or tornado type winds come through, a healthy tree can survive.

When the adversity of trials, hard times hit us, when temptation knocks at the door, when the appealing lies of false doctrine present themselves, or even when you fail, you can still keep standing if you're rooted in Christ, in the truth of the gospel of grace.

[25 : 43] Ephesians 4 tells us that we should grow in Christ so that we will not be blown around by every wind of doctrine. Okay, you can take the picture down, thank you.

So do you know what happens when we remember these truths, if we just take time to remember these truths of the gospel? What's the response inside of when you ponder just how much God loves you?

Have you guys listened to that David Crowder song, Oh, How He Loves Us? That's kind of a reason, it's a really good one. When you take time to meditate upon this gospel, as it says in our text, overflowing with thankfulness, it's a natural response, that's what comes out of us.

Notice though that overflowing with thankfulness is in conjunction with being rooted and built in Him. your faith is strengthened when you remember every good thing that you have in Christ.

When you consider the enormous price that was paid at the cross for those sins, for your sin, for my sin, when you think of that, you can thank God even when you might be hurting, you can remember those types of things and still be thankful.

[27 : 17] Remember that you have a blessed hope because of the gospel. You have the rapture, the blessed hope as it's called. We are going to see Jesus face to face.

You can, you know, when you see how crazy things are in the world, you can stop for a minute and you think because of the gospel, people, I know that God is going to judge all this and make it right. Even more than that, He's taking the things I've done wrong and is showing me mercy. It says in James that mercy triumphs over judgment. So, we have this message the world needs and we can be, I guess, ambassadors by the thankfulness that we have in Christ when we overflow with the truths of the gospel.

Now, in verse 8 of the text, we're told to be careful. It says beware in some translations to not be led away and taken captive by the thinking or the philosophies that belong to this world.

I need a drink here. Excuse me. The Bible calls Satan the god of this world system.

[28 : 46] So, the philosophies that come from this world have their origin in him. Satan offers great sounding lies that appeal to our flesh and pride.

Now, the imagery given in this text, in the original language, as I understand it, is a picture of a person being lured away through enticement to a place where they'll actually be trapped.

And Vine's dictionary says that it's the same word that they use when they carried away spoil after a war. Satan, the father of lies, seeks to kill or destroy.

Since Satan disguises himself as an angel of light, his message and his messengers do the same. They will try to get us to doubt God's goodness, God's provision, temptation to flat out doubt God's

word by appealing to our pride and our flesh.

Remember the story in Genesis 3. A serpent came to Eve, he said, has God said that you shall not eat of every tree in the garden?

[30 : 15] Did God say that? No, he didn't say that. When his first tactic was she engaged in a conversation was, no, we can eat of this tree. And so he got her starting in a conversation.

The same tactic was used by Satan when he tempted our Lord Jesus. And thank you Lord for being the way you are so that you conquered evil.

But he did not engage in a conversation. he quoted the truth that shut Satan up for that temptation.

Then he quoted the temptation was to fulfill the flesh your way.

Because God is not being, he just really wants to be a killjoy. He doesn't want what's good for you.

That's the thought behind the temptation. And then, you know, you won't surely die.

Just a flat out denial of God's word. have you ever noticed that false doctrines by cults and wherever, they're primarily aimed at the church?

[31 : 28] Not on believers. Now, I know they go out to unbelievers some, but primarily, they come at us. Satan's ministers pray upon those who profess, or they try to pray upon those of us who believe the gospel.

They try to take us away from the foundation of the gospel through deception. Paul takes, in this passage, Paul takes us back to the gospel to avoid that error.

You've got to go back to the gospel. He uses what we tell the lost as a test for doctrines we hear, and as a means to test our own attitudes.

Does not the gospel of Christ itself expose Satan's lies? His tactics? The gospel itself tells us of the goodness of God.

In Romans, it says it's the goodness or the kindness of God that leads us to repentance. It also tells us that He is going to provide for us.

[32 : 35] It says, He who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him? Really give us all things. And the gospel itself proclaims that Jesus is the Word of God Himself.

So, in our culture, we got some, this is just crazy in America now, isn't it? I mean, we just, we look at the world going off the deep end, and I'm thinking, well, look, that's just, look, what's happened to the church for so long here?

Okay, so you have the Gnostics here in this passage, and they were, you know, saying, hey, we have secret knowledge, and you can be more spiritual if you do this. Well, that's pretty much kind of like what the Masons do, right, today?

There's other versions of that around. There's also stuff like the prosperity gospel that basically changes, distorts what God's promises are, number one, and changes the definition of faith as some kind of power that you possess, whereby you can direct God to what His will is.

You know, they don't come out and say that, but it's crafted and packaged that way. So people, there have been people who wanted to know the Lord, who started out in their path to, or as God was leading them, and they wound up in a church like that whose faith was shipwrecked, because it's their fault.

[34 : 09] That they didn't, you know, is there flesh and pride involved in that doctrine that might appeal to people? Yes, they were led astray with that. And so, you know, not only is there pride, there's greed, but when you go back to the gospel, I mean, like, so these people were made to feel guilty because God wasn't blessing their life like they thought He should.

The gospel is saying, you know, God has already given you everything that you need for life and godliness in Christ Jesus. He's already given it to you.

And that the real blessings are spiritual blessings. And yes, He will take care of you as you walk with Him. But people were made to feel guilty.

The gospel relieves the guilt. The gospel gets you back to the Lord. False doctrines take you away from the gospel. What about in Paul's day the Judaizers and today the legalists?

The purpose of the law is to drive us to despair. They teach the purpose of the law is to get closer to God. They take you away from the gospel.

[35 : 24] Here's the big one in our culture, though. And probably the one that affects even our, if you want to call it, group of churches that we're in to some degree. Evolution.

Okay. I was up visiting my in-laws at the church. And I went to church with them and they are having different pastors come through because they're trying to hire a pastor. And this one guy was speaking there from a real conservative college, Baptist college. college. And he was doing a great job.

It was a Christmas message. I went up and talked to him afterwards. And I don't know how it came up, but we got to talking about Genesis chapter one. And he said he believed that those were literal days, but here comes the worldly wisdom.

It's a matter of interpretation because I really think that the earth is older and why do they say that? It's because they're, I mean, it could be several reasons, but maybe they're, they don't understand science good enough, or maybe it's simply that this is a way that you can, it appeals to your pride.

[36 : 48] You have like some kind of knowledge here that, well, we know better kind of thing. and you know, it's not a matter of the authority of scripture, it's a matter of interpretation. I mean, what's the matter, I don't want to, I want to make this real, what is the problem with saying that the earth is more than 6,000 years old?

What's the problem with it? It's in the, it's an issue with the authority of the Bible is the problem. it's false things that sound good that are accommodated to try their, they try to change scripture to fit these things, and when you look at these teachings, they're actually not even good science. They might sound like it, but when they're tested, they're really not. And so, when you read in the New Testament that in Adam, if you're in Adam when we're born, we all die because of sin, that was a real, real Adam and a real event that happened there.

When you, when Jesus talks about marriage, he's talking about the first marriage, that was a real Adam and a real Eve. When we talk, there's no reason to believe that the days in Genesis are millions of years because if, if they are, and man came later, then the problem with trying to accommodate that teaching is that out of necessity of evolution, death happens before man is created.

The Bible says, no, God did not start things with death. He made us to live eternally with him. Death is a result of sin coming into the human race.

[38 : 29] So you can't accommodate it, but my goodness, I've been reading some of this literature from Answers in Genesis, and that's their big thing, and that's their mission, to get people back to stand on the authority of Scripture.

And they say that there's actually more, quote, Bible-believing, we're not talking about liberal churches here, we're talking about people who have a statement of faith that sounds, that there's more people accommodating that type of teaching for the early chapters of Genesis than hold to just what it says.

I didn't know it was that many. I thought, my goodness. So, anyway, as these messages pervade the church in America today, the truth of the gospel, it has never changed.

And God still honors simple dependence upon him and what he says in his word. He still delivers his love and his power at the cross.

He still meets with us as we come before him in thanksgiving. Can any musicians come up? So, before we get in, take time to remember more about what the Lord has done for us.

[39 : 59] I was talking to my mother last week about the Lord. Sorry.

She's 87. She's Catholic. So, I, out of necessity, want to try to see what she really believes because, you know, maybe she's a believer. And she's just confused.

And so, when we, when the opportunity presents itself, and it has been lately because she's afraid to die, she's going to have an operation that's actually scheduled for tomorrow where they, it's, it's over 90% things will be okay, but they take this valve that goes in your A order and they put it through your femoral artery and they do this operation.

And so, she's a little bit on edge. And so, we have a chance to talk about the Lord. And, in the course of our conversation, we were discussing the difference between going to church out of obligation and duty, which is what she will tell you.

There's a holy day of obligation. I've got to go to church. Difference between that and, and to worship God, a lot of thankfulness. I was trying to share the gospel with her and I was able to mention that when we meet here at Bethel, we don't think, we don't come here thinking of our sacrifice that we're making, but we actually are admitting when we take the Lord's Supper that we need, we needed, and still need, the blood sacrifice given for us.

[41 : 47] That's a different concept. We're actually admitting we have a need and we're not worthy. And we also remember that because of what was done, all that we have in Christ.

Let's pray. Father, thank you today. Thank you so much. For this simple yet life changing message. We're messed up on our own.

Lord, each of us knows that in our own way. And you yet come to us. You show us your goodness. You are satisfied with what your Son done for us.

thank you so much for this time. Thank you so much for this time. Thank you.