

6/7/26

## Rooted to the Tree

### A Life that Matters: The Letter to the Colossians

#### Colossians 2:6-15

1. Read Colossians 2:6–7 aloud. Paul uses three images in quick succession — walking (some translations translate with the metaphor “live your lives”), being rooted, and being built. What does each one suggest about how faith works?
2. Paul's instruction isn't to *start* living in Christ but to *continue* living in Christ, because the Colossians have already received him. Why does that distinction matter?
3. Pastor Nick pointed out that verses 6–8 carry the weight of what *we* do, while verses 9–15 are almost entirely about what *Christ* has done. How does that balance — far more about Christ's action than ours — shape how you hear Paul's practical instructions?
4. Pastor Nick noted that without knowing exactly what the "Colossian heresy" was, its vagueness actually makes it more universal, because every era has its hollow philosophies. What are some of the "empty philosophies" in our world today?
5. Now let's get personal. Pastor Roger offered a pointed list of false roots — success, status, popularity, politics, money. Which of those (or some other) is most tempting to you, and why is it so easy to mistake it for something solid? What false root do you wish someone had warned you about, or that you had listened to the warning that you did receive?
6. Paul's language of "being taken captive" echoes Biblical language for the Babylonian exile of Israel's people. Pastor Nick called this a pattern: liberation in Jesus and the Exodus are both works of God, but even then people can choose or drift into unfaithfulness. Where are you in that pattern — passivity, sin, or living faithfully — in your own life in Christ right now? What do you need from God and other people in order to persevere in faith?

7. Pastor Roger described false teaching as "spiritual kidnapping." What does it look like practically to guard against being carried off by ideas that sound good but don't lead closer to Christ?
8. Paul says we are "complete" in Christ (v. 10). Pastor Roger connected this to the world's constant insistence that we need more — more success, more recognition, more achievement. Where is it hardest for you to believe that Christ is enough?
9. Verses 13–14 describe God canceling the record of our sins and nailing it to the cross. Pastor Roger put it simply: *Paid in Full*. Is there a debt — a failure, a regret — that you keep reopening even though God has already closed the case? How can the image of it being nailed to the cross join your prayers and change your imagination?
10. Pastor Nick suggested a simple inventory (perhaps with the input of someone who will speak the truth in love to you): Who or what gets most of your thoughts, your time, and your energy? Take 15 minutes this week to root yourself in Christ with those questions. Refuse self-condemnation (John 3:17; Romans 8:1), but ask Jesus for the particular help you need to put down deeper roots in him alone.

**5/31/26**

**A Life that Matters: The Letter to the Colossians  
Rescued and Reconciled  
Colossians 1: 13-23**

**The early church anticipated the return of Christ in their lifetime. When they saw that Christ might not return in their lifetime, early Christian leaders like the Apostle Paul began to write down both what he saw and experienced. Under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, New Testament letters like Colossians began to form. Colossians is a letter from Paul that urges the believers in Colosse to stand firm in the Christian faith and not move away from Christ who is “supreme over all creation,” and is the “visible image of the invisible God.” As believers stand firm in Christ, they will continue to live a life that matters!**

1. How does following Jesus give purpose and meaning to living a life that matters? Before you became a follower of Jesus, did you live a life that mattered?
2. Why is it important to remain “grounded” in Jesus? What pulls us away from Jesus?
3. In Colossians 1: 15-20, Paul describes Jesus as supreme over creation and the church. What stands out to you the most about this description of Christ?
4. Why do you think Paul emphasizes that all things were created through Christ and for Christ?
5. Does viewing Jesus as Creator and Sustainer change the way we view our lives?
6. Colossians 1:20 says Christ reconciles “all things” through the cross. What does reconciliation mean to you?
7. Where do you see brokenness and division in our world that needs Christ’s reconciliation? What role do we play in reconciliation?
8. Colossians 1:23 calls believers to continue grounded and steadfast in faith. What helps keep a person spiritually grounded?
9. How can the church become a community of reconciliation in the world around us?
10. What is one practical way that you can live this week in the freedom and peace Christ has given you?