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ROOTED IN CHRIST

Colossians 2:6-7

Colossians 2: 6 So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, 7 rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

INTRODUCTION :

You know some people who opens a Bible and puts their finger on it and wherever their finger lands, that is what God's will is. So, there was this person who was having problems and he wanted to know what God wanted him to do, he opened the Bible and his finger pointed to Matthew 27:5 where his finger landed on "he went away and hanged himself." So he said to himself, "No, I don't think so, I'll try again." And so he closed his Bible and then opened it again and pointed to a verse again without looking and this time it was on Luke 10:37 and his finger landed on the words, "Go and do likewise."

Review :

We showed you in the several Sundays, what spiritual growth looks like from a spiritual infant, to a spiritual child, to a spiritual young man and become spiritual fathers.

SPIRITUAL STAGE	CHARACTERISTIC	DEFINITION
INFANTS	CARNAL	Controlled by feelings and appetites
CHILDREN	GROWING	Training in God's Word
YOUNG MEN	STRONG	Living God's Word
FATHERS	DISCIPLER	Imparting God's Word

We then took the time to discuss the verse :

Colossians 2: 6 So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord,

We mentioned last week that Paul wrote to the church in Colossae because some false teachers were spreading the teaching that Jesus is not God and he had to correct this.

And we also studied, that in order to be saved, we need to receive that Jesus Christ is Lord and Saviour.

This means, that we need to believe that God sent his own Son who is very God Himself to become man to die on the cross and suffer God's wrath on sin on our behalf. **We need to surrender our lives to Him as our Lord!!! That's the start of Spiritual Growth.**

**We took some time in explaining this because
SPIRITUAL GROWTH STARTS FROM BEING SAVED.**

IMPORTANT : BECAUSE ANYTHING THAT IS DEAD DOESN'T GROW, CANNOT GROW AND WILL NOT GROW SPIRITUALLY INSIDE.

And what do we need in order to grow spiritually, to become mature?

It has to do with,

WALKING, TRUSTING, OVERFLOWING

Note : God did not make it complicated in order for us to become mature. Again, as I mentioned before growth needs to be intentional (gusto natin).

I. WALKING with Jesus

*Colossians 2: 6 So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, **continue to live your lives in him***

The KJV version

“As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him:”

- **Walking with Jesus means to be aware of His Presence**
- **Walking with Jesus means to walk step by step with Him..**
- **Walking with Jesus means to be led by Him.**

What does it mean to walk with Jesus?

The Christian life is not a set of rules – do this and do that. If that's the Christian life, then how are we different from any other religion. **THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS ALL ABOUT WALKING WITH JESUS CHRIST. IT'S HAVING THAT INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM.** And when we have that intimate relationship with Him, then OBEDIENCE flows.

II. TRUSTING in His Word (The Truth)

*Colossians 2: 6 So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, **7 rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught***

Remember, one principle of Bible interpretation is pay attention to the words that have been written.

Why did I emphasize this?

*strengthened in **the faith** as you were taught*

Note : Paul did not write, strengthened in faith as you were taught. In Greek, there was an article “ho” (the, this, these), and “pistis” means faith.

So “pistis” here doesn't mean “trust, believe” like what we used in *“We walk by faith not by sight.” 2 Corinthians 5:7*

Paul is talking about “the faith as you were taught. This means, “A SET OF BELIEFS”, in other words, “DOCTRINE”

How are we sure, Paul means “doctrine” here?

Remember the context again, on why Paul wrote Colossians, because there were some false teachers who is teaching that Jesus is not God...THEY WERE INTRODUCING A DIFFERENT DOCTRINE.

Even Jude, another half-brother of Jesus and the brother of James was intending to write about something else to the church but pivoted because again, there were some false teachers introducing fallacies.

*Jude 3:3 Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for **the faith** that was once for all entrusted to God’s holy people.*

Why is doctrine important?

Quote : Doctrine dictates our beliefs and our beliefs determine our destiny.

That’s the reason why it’s important that we base our doctrine on the truth!

Where can we find the truth? THE WORD OF GOD!

John 17:17 “Sanctify them by the truth; Your word is truth.”

Psalms 119:160 The entirety of Your word is truth.

By God’s grace, that’s the reason why we interpret the Bible according to its context, context, context

- Scriptural context (what is the situation, who is the author, what did he mean, how is it connected with the entire book or letter, or gospel, how is it connected with the entire Scriptures)
- Historical context (who is the audience, what was the culture and etc)
- Grammatical context (what was the grammar, the original language and etc)

That’s why, it is irresponsible and can even be dangerous to take a verse in the Bible AND PUT MEANING ON IT that is not according to the context.

So how do we grow in the truth?

- **Good foundation of the truth**

*7 **rooted** and built up in him, strengthened **in the faith as you were taught***

- **Build our lives around the truth.**

*7 rooted and **built up in him**, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.*

Etymology : built up, “epoikodomeo” actually three words in Greek combined, “epi” which means “upon” or “to position on” and then “oikos” means “house” and “dome” (where we get the word “domicile”) which means “roof”

So how are we sure, we are building our faith, and our family in the proper foundation?

*7 rooted and built up **in him***

It means, OUR KNOWLEDGE AND LOVE FOR JESUS GROWS!

Ephesians 2:19 Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

That is the litmus test for our lives and even for the church.

Are we growing in Him? Is Jesus Christ, the center? Is His name being the one lifted up?

We need to build our lives on God’s Word

How do we know it’s God’s Word?

2 Timothy 3: 16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Etymology : Scripture “graphos” written.

**This means, the Bible...the 66 books of the Bible. 39 in the OT and 27 in the NT
That’s it! There’s no extra revelation! GOD’S WORD IN THE BIBLE IS SUFFICIENT!**

And last week, we talked about how to build our lives in the truth with the Word Hand.

Hear, Read, Study, Memorize and Meditate

Which bring us to the next lesson :

- **Stand on God’s Word**

*7 rooted and built up in him, **strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.***

KJV and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught,

Etymology : strengthened “bebaioo” (beb-ah-ya-o), **to make sure (siguraduhin)**

KJV : established

How do you know if you want to make sure if something we built is strong enough to stand on? We test it!

Root word : “basis” where we get the word “base” or “basis” (What’s your basis?)
Interestingly enough, that word “basis” is “to step” or the foot

Demonstrate: Sometimes, we test if something is stable by stepping on it and seeing if it’s strong or even has something underneath.

Story : I remember when I was in my high school years, I wanted to make a little money. My mom just bought me a bicycle. My Nanay used to work at a credit union where it had several members in the community and then she will mail them their statements. So I asked my Nanay, instead of mailing them, I will be the postman and she will pay me 1 pesos per letter. My Nanay agreed and I was so excited. I even had a bag slung around my body with all the statement letters on it. It was going well but while I was delivering in the “palengke” where all the fish and pork are being sold, huge thunderstorm came in suddenly. I had to wait until it stopped but there was a little flood that already formed in the palengke and the streets. It was around ankle deep. The rain stopped and while I was going out of the palengke , (remember, there was already murky water on the street), I was about to step onto the street to ride my bike but I saw water bubbling up on the part I was supposed to step on and I said to myself, “uh-oh, I’m sure there was a hole in there.” And so I side stepped and assumed that the part that there was no water coming out, was sturdy and safe. So I stepped on it and lo and behold, my whole body (yes, even my head) dropped into this huge whole filled with murky water that sucked me in and it was a good thing, I was able to hold on to something and pull myself out. I had to go home and told my Nanay what happened and that all the statement letters were already wet and I’m just going to take a bath and change my clothes so I can deliver the letters. Of course, she did not allow me.

The reason why I’m telling this story is because just like our spiritual life, in order for us to make sure we are maturing properly, we need to be

strengthened in the faith as you were taught

But how? How do you make sure something is correct or strong? We test it!

1 Corinthians 13:5 Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves.

Again, we have to remember the context of Colossians, there were false teachers. So how do we “make sure” “establish” or test ourselves if we are in the faith... OR IF OUR DOCTRINE IS CORRECT?

strengthened in the faith as you were taught

Ephesians 2:19 Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

Remember by God's grace, what I taught earlier, God has established apostles and prophets during that time because the Word of God with the New Testament wasn't written yet.

During the time of Paul, there were already false prophets and false teachers that were saying that Jesus is not God. The apostles were constantly battling them

1 Corinthians 12:3 Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

*1 John 4: 1 Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 **This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God,** 3 but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.*

Even today, most of the cults would say that "Jesus is not God"

But how do we protect ourselves from deceit and lies from the enemy?

(Remember, the lies and deceit are not sometimes obvious just like the pavement that I thought it was safe to step on to because there was no bubbling up of water.)

Two things :

- Make sure you are truly attending a church that where doctrinal foundation is Biblically correct.

(Show photo) In our FB page, we have placed there our Statement of Faith about the Bible, God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit and Salvation

I encourage you to read it.

Why is it important to attend worship service where the Word is preached and Bible study with a community of believers?

1 Timothy 3:15 if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.

Bible study with fellow believers is a place where we can dive in deeper, ask questions and search the Scriptures together.

- We need to study the Scriptures ourselves.

Acts 17:11 Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

And when we're listening to someone who is in front or studying the Bible or even listening to some preacher in youtube, use your mind if what he's saying is Biblical or true or makes sense.

When Martin Luther was asked to recant his views, he said this...

Quote : "Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scriptures or by clear reason... my conscience is captive to the Word of God. To go against conscience is neither right nor safe. I cannot and will not recant. Here I stand. I can do no other. God help me!" - Martin Luther

Note : By God's grace, I've always advocated, to pray and use their mind when someone is teaching you something. First, is it Biblical and when I say that, not because a Scripture is quoted, we assume it's already Biblical. Is it true? Is it according to context again? Does it make sense?

A lot of people when they listen to someone, they don't use their mind. They are guided by their emotion, their feelings... we need to be guided by God's Word. That's why I really advocate that you read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation.

Why?

Acts 20:27 for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God.

Illustration: Before the Reformation, Bibles were inaccessible. Each town was given one, large Bible chained to a pulpit for the town to use. However, common people could not make use of the Word of God, because the Catholic Church only allowed the Scriptures to be produced in Latin, which common men and women could not read. As a matter of fact, it was illegal for Bibles to be translated in any language other than Latin, forcing the town's people to rely on what the Priests told them.

Nowadays, we have the Bible translated in every language and we have the opportunity to read the **WHOLE COUNSEL OF GOD** from Genesis to Revelation.

Conclusion :

By God's grace, I have seen so many of you because you are consistently attending church on Sundays, listening intently on God's Word and then also attending Bible studies, I've seen how God has used this to develop that relationship with Christ and I see that you are growing in Him. Praise the Lord for that.

Last Friday, I was so glad that Lynn showed to me her new Bible because she said she wanted to read it.

Two things that happened there :

First, she wanted me to bless the Bible but I did not bless it. It is because the reading of the Word of God is the one that blesses us.

Second, I told her that it was a good-looking Bible but I said to her that the Bible will be more beautiful if after a year, it has torn-out pages, marks on it and a little worn out simply because I know she's been reading it.

Why? There's a saying.

"A worn-out Bible is a sign of a well-fed soul"

As man will only become strong and grow because of food, so does our soul will only be strengthened and grow because of God's Word.

That's why our Lord said,

Matthew 4:4 "It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

When we are regularly fed by God's Word, we will definitely grow in the Lord.

We already talked about the two things we need to do in order for us to spiritually grow... Walking with Jesus, Trusting in His Word and next week, we talk about the last piece "Overflowing"

S.G.D.