

## GROUNDED IN CHRIST

Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth, Revive '21

### TEXT: COLOSSIANS

What does it mean to be spiritually grounded, to be rooted and grounded in our faith? How can we stand firm in a shaking world?

**Believers of all eras have had to deal with hard things, with a shaking world, and they've had to learn how to stay grounded.**

In Colossians, Paul wrote to warn believers of false, dangerous teachings creeping into the church. He encouraged them to remain steadfast in a shaking world by pointing to Christ.

There are twenty-six direct references to Christ in Colossians plus dozens more references, if all the pronouns that refer to Christ are included:

Christ is:

- The Son God loves (1:13).
- The Redeemer and forgiver of sins (1:14).
- The image of the invisible God. He is the firstborn over all creation (1:15).
- Everything was created by Him, through Him, and for Him (1:16).
- He is before all things. By Him all things hold together (1:17).
- He is the head of the body, the Church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead (1:18).
- The goal of all things in heaven and on earth is that Christ might come to have first place in everything (1:18).
- He reconciled us to God through making peace through His blood, shed on the cross (1:20).

Colossians continues:

- Christ in you is the hope of glory (1:27).
- In Christ are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge (2:3).
- The entire fullness of God's nature dwells bodily in Christ (1:19).
- He is the head over every ruler and authority (1:16).
- All the Old Testament Jewish religious festivals and practices were mere shadows of what was to come,

and the substance to which they pointed was Christ (2:16–17).

- Christ is your life (3:4).
- Christ is all in all (3:11).

Throughout the book of Colossians you see:

- The uniqueness of Christ.
- The eternity of Christ. He always has been; He always will be.
- The majesty and glory of Christ.
- The exaltation of Christ.
- The centrality of Christ.
- The supremacy of Christ over every created thing.
- The absolute reign and rule of Christ over every power in heaven and on earth.
- The sufficiency of Christ.
- The necessity of Christ.
- The sacrificial death of Christ.
- The redeeming grace and mercy of Christ.

**Paul says Christ is everything. We have nothing, and we are nothing apart from Christ. If we have Christ, we have everything we need for time and for eternity. You can never have too much of Christ.**

Through the transforming power of the gospel, “once you were . . . but now you are” (1:21–22). Colossians 1:23 is both a word of assurance and a word of caution:

- **Word of assurance**

Those who have been reconciled to God through faith in Christ (v. 22) will stay grounded, rooted, steadfast in Christ—not because we’re faithful to God, but because He is faithful. Christ holds fast to us.

- **Word of warning**

The greatest danger in our lives is not a secular culture that denies Christ. **Our greatest danger is that we who have heard the truth, who have said “yes” to Christ, “yes” to the gospel, would shift, move away from Christ and from the hope of the gospel.**

The enemy attempts to draw God’s people away from Christ and away from the simplicity, purity, and the magnificence of the gospel by:

- **Distracting them from Christ**
- **Seeking to diminish Christ**
- **Deceiving them about Christ**

In Colossians 2:4–5, Paul is concerned about thinking that is hollow, empty, and deceptive. This thinking is based on what's natural.

**If your life is based on anything or anyone other than Christ, you will not be able to stand firm in a shaking world. The antidote, the solution to being deceived, to being taken captive by the world's thinking, is to be rooted and grounded in Christ (3:2, 6).**

The deeper the root, the stronger and more stable the plant will be, and the greater the ability to withstand storms and to discern and deal with deception. **What you are rooted in will be revealed when the earth starts shaking around you, but don't wait until you're in a crisis to get grounded in Christ.**

What does it look like to be rooted and grounded in Christ?

- Be sure you are in Christ and are planted in Him (1:13).
- Relentlessly draw nourishment from Christ (2:6,19; 3:1–2).
- Ruthlessly deal with the weeds that threaten to choke out your faith in Christ (3:5,8).

Just as the sun is the center of the solar system, Christ is the center of the entire universe. **Without Him, our world, our lives are left to spin out of control. Yet we foolishly think and live as if we were the center of our universe.**

**Remember that your sin estranged you from God, but Christ has reconciled you to God by His death. Remember that you were once an enemy of God, but Christ has made you a friend of God. Remember that you were once under the wrath and the judgment of God, but Christ took that wrath on Himself so you could live in the blessing and grace of God.**

- If you're plagued with shame and guilt, remember that **Christ bore that shame and guilt in your place on the cross.**
- If you're tempted to rely on your own goodness, remember that **your only righteousness is found in Christ.**
- When you feel the weight of trying to perform to please Christ, remember that you live only by faith in Christ, who is the only one who could ever please God. **You don't have to perform to please Him.**
- If you're being defeated by sinful patterns and responses, remember that Christ lives in you, and **His resurrection power is able to overcome every sin that tempts you.**
- If your heart is dry and thirsty, remember that **Christ is the living water that satisfies.**
- If you're feeling anxious or discouraged, remember that **Christ is your peace and hope.**
- If you're feeling whiplash with this world in upheaval, remember that Paul says in Colossians 1, "All things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and by Him all things hold together."

How many things does He hold together? All things! Beyond what we can see and imagine. The entire universe is held together by Christ and His Word. He holds you together when it feels that your world is spinning out of control. There's not a single atom, not a single cancer cell, not a single tragedy, not a single concern on your heart that is outside of His control. He has the whole world in His hands.

If you want to be assured of the presence and the peace of Christ, all day and every day, "Continue to walk in Christ, being rooted and built up in Him, and established in the faith" (Col. 2:6–7).

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Nancy reminded us of our constant need of Jesus through the song, “Give Me Jesus.” Share how you would complete one of these sentences:

*In the morning when I rise, give me \_\_\_\_\_ .*

*When I am alone, give me \_\_\_\_\_ .*

*When I come to die, give me \_\_\_\_\_ .*

Discuss the kinds of false teachings creeping into churches. What can we do to prepare and safeguard our hearts?

Nancy highlighted many truths about Christ found in Colossians. Name one or two which are the most meaningful in your current season of life. How does this knowledge motivate you to keep Christ at the center of your life?

Using the phrase, “I once was . . . but now I am,” describe an aspect of your life that has been transformed by the gospel.

Satan seeks to draw Christians away in three ways: 1) by distracting them from Christ, 2) diminishing Christ in their eyes, and 3) deceiving them about Christ. Share examples of these tactics. What are helpful strategies to counteract them?

Nancy said, “What you are rooted in will be revealed when the earth starts shaking around you, but don’t wait until you’re in a crisis to get grounded in Christ.” Discuss practical ways to stay rooted and grounded by relentlessly drawing nourishment from Christ.

Name the weeds that are choking out your faith in Christ. What would it look like to ruthlessly deal with them?

Consider taking time to pray for faith and courage to “continue to walk in Christ, being rooted and built up in Him, and established in the faith” (Col. 2:6–7).

