

Jesus our Centre (Colossians & Philemon)

Week 4: Jesus our Fullness

WELCOME

Spend time relaxing and sharing together.

How do you decide what is true?

WORSHIP

What does it mean to you to be rooted in Christ?

You could sing or listen to Jesus be the centre

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=884tPIs01e0>

WORD

Read Colossians 2:6-23

Colossians 2:6-7 summarises the basic teaching of the letter to Colossians, which describes how to remain faithful through the firm foundations of Paul's teaching, to grow in spiritual maturity and avoid false spirituality.

1. How does the imagery in vv6-7 help you to understand true spiritual growth?

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WHAT NEXT?

Summary

Those who have received Christ are:

Rooted in Christ. We were once tender transplants, but now we have taken firm root, figuratively, we have been "put on a firm foundation."

Built up in Christ. Paul uses a word from the construction trades to describe their growth: "to engage in a building process of personal and corporate development."

Strengthened in faith. The Greek word translated as 'strengthened' means "to make a person firm in commitment", "to make them firm upon their foundation."

Overflowing with thankfulness. The imagery here is having abundance, being rich. Here the idea is to "be outstanding, be prominent, excel" in thankfulness.

False teachers offer fulfilment and fullness by trying to add something to what Christ gives us. But there is nothing and no one closer to God, no experience fuller, than knowing Christ and walking with him.

Paul says that "in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form." The Greek word translated as lives (or dwells) refers to long-time residence. In the New Testament the word is used in a literal, geographical sense. But the word is also used in a special sense to refer to God's Spirit inhabiting within people (see Ephesians 3:17, 2:22). The word is used twice in Colossians of Christ himself (see Col 1:19; 2:9)

God dwells in his Son. He does not dwell in us to the same degree as he dwells in his Son. We are merely creatures, fallen from God's perfect creation, who are being gradually restored by the Spirit to our full glory (2 Cor 3:18; 4:16-17). But Christ is not a created being, he is the Creator himself (Col 1:16). Jesus is one with the Father (John 1:30), glorified with

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the Father before all creation (John 17:5), God in the flesh (John 1:14), and has the closest relationship with the Father" (John 1:18).

Because Jesus himself is God, God dwells in him completely, fully, in the flesh. For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form. (Col 2:9)

Lenten reflection

During the coming week read Colossians 2:9-15 (daily if you can) and ask the Lord to speak to you through it. You might want to journal what the Lord says to you.