



The Epistle to the Colossians

Col 2:6-8 The Protection Against False Teaching

- *Col 2:6 – “As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,”*
 - What’s it *there fore*?
 - So how did *we receive (aorist active indicative) Christ Jesus the Lord?*
 - By faith, so as was, we must *walk (present active imperative)* by faith.
 - This is Paul’s only utterance of *Christ Jesus the Lord!*
 - Constable - "Christ Jesus the Lord" counteracts three false conceptions of the Savior. These are His deity ("Christ") that Judaism denied, His humanity ("Jesus") that Docetists (Christ was a *phanton*) denied, and His sovereignty ("Lord") that many varieties of false teaching denied.
 - *so walk (present active imperative) in Him – do it!*
 - What does *walk (paralambano)* mean?
 - *lambanō* means to appropriate and literally this is to personally appropriate this life to oneself; and it’s all about being *in Him!*
 - » *1 John 2:6 - He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.*



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– How does this happen?

• *Col 2:7 – “rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.”*

– Isn't it great to be *rooted* (perfect passive) and *built up* (present passive) in Him and also *established* (present passive) in the *faith*?

- An interesting metaphor – referring to a building (*Eph 2:20* – the church).
 - *Eph 3:17* - *that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love,*
 - *John 15:5* - *“I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.*
- How important is *passive* tense here?
- And it's not by faith but *in the faith*; what do you make of this?
 - Wuest - "In the faith" is *tēi pistei*, which Lightfoot says is dative of the instrument, and which in modern grammar is called the instrumental case.



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He translates, "by your faith," making "faith" the instrument by which they were being established. Alford and Expositors demur, and take this as a dative of reference, Alford saying that there is no question of instrumental of means in this passage. Thus, the translation would be, "constantly being established with reference to your faith."

–And note, *as you have been taught (aorist passive)* is consistent with the theme of protection against false teaching.

• *1 Cor 3:10 - According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it.*

–And are we *abounding (present active) in it with thanksgiving?*

• Why is this important?

– The basis of all of this is God's great and unending grace!

» *Acts 20:32 - "So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.*

• ***Col 2:8 – "Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to***



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the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.”

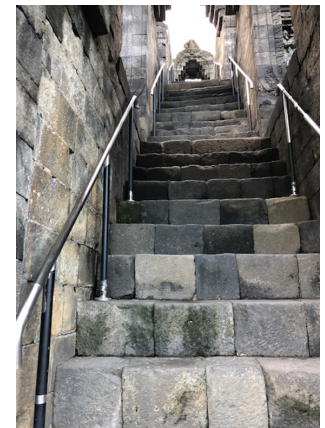
- *Beware (present active imperative) lest anyone cheat (spoil) you - and think in how many ways this occurs.*
 - *philosophy* – only NT use of this term; love of wisdom
 - Wuest - Bishop Lightfoot remarks upon the fact that *philosophy*, by which the Greeks expressed the highest effort of the intellect, and *virtue (arete)*, their expression for the highest moral excellence, are each used but once by Paul, showing 'that the gospel had deposed the terms as inadequate to the higher standard, whether of knowledge or practice, which it had introduced.' "



Blue Mosque, Istanbul



Hindu Temples, Java



Buddhist Temple,



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- Paul has not dismissed all wisdom but that which leads to *vain deceit according to the teaching of men and principles of the world.*
 - *Acts 17:18 - Then certain Epicurean and Stoic philosophers encountered him. And some said, “What does this babblers want to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign gods,” because he preached to them Jesus and the resurrection.*
- *World is kosmos* – world system or so-called empty deception.
 - False teaching of the time including Gnosticism (disastrous mix of legalism, asceticism, and mysticism with Christianity) in Colossae.
 - Some more current examples here?
- *and not according to Christ.*
 - *Eph 4:20 - But ye have not so learned Christ;*
 - Notice, it’s Christ not his teachings or his life.
 - » *2 Cor 3:18 - But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.*
 - And being in Christ is all about abiding!
 - *Col 2:3 - in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*