

Be Reformed – Open the bible: study, dig and ask what the main point of the passage is

Be Charismatic – Expect the Holy Spirit: ask God to speak, minister, build up and lead us to maturity

Be Community – Love God's people: share vulnerably, apply, pray and build each other up

Be Missional – Win the world: apply lessons to outreach, make content accessible to non-Christians

Colossians 2:1-7

1 For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face, 2 that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. 4 I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments. 5 For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ.

6 Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, 7 rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

Study Guide 12 February 2012 – Back to Basics



Summary

So often in the Christian life we think that progress and greater sanctification comes by attending more classes, being more disciplined or attaining some higher form of spirituality.

In this passage Paul lays out his hopes for the Colossians: he hopes that they will grow to be knit together in love as they are strengthened in their hearts (ie, in their whole person) through Christ. Paul then says that plausible arguments come against this and undermine the goals he has been aiming for. While Paul doesn't spell out for us what those arguments are, we can know that there are many fine sounding philosophies that do undermine a pure faith in Christ.

Paul's answer to all this is that the believers should continue to grow (being rooted and built up in Christ) in the faith, but that this only happens as they continue to walk with Christ as they received Him. How did we receive Christ? By faith, repenting and believing the gospel. This is how all progress in the Christian life is made, and how we are to continually deal with all things that set themselves up against the knowledge of God.

Key points

Whole Christians living in loving community is only possible as we apply the gospel to every area of life.

Questions

- >>In what ways do you pursue your Christian growth?
- >>How have you allowed individualistic consumerism to affect your faith?
- >>Is your faith more 'spiritual' or Christian?

Final thoughts

Christian growth is by continually going back to the gospel and allowing that to shape our lives.