

Rooted in Christ Because Jesus is All We Need

Message 1 of 4 in the series: "Rooted"

A. The Apostle Paul wrote a letter to encourage the early Christians living in Colosse, Turkey to keep their faith rooted in Jesus.

"Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him." Colossians 2:7a (NLT)

"This letter is from Paul, chosen by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and from our brother Timothy. We are writing to God's holy people in the city of Colosse, who are faithful brothers and sisters in Christ. May God our Father give you grace and peace. We always pray for you, and we give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. For **we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and your love for all of God's people, which come from your confident hope of what God has reserved for you in heaven.** You have had this expectation ever since you first heard the truth of the Good News... from Epaphras, our beloved co-worker. He is Christ's faithful servant, and he is helping us on your behalf. He has told us about the love for others that the Holy Spirit has given you. So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you." Colossians 1:1-5 & 7-9a (NLT)

Note: Epaphras probably became a believer and one of Paul's disciples while Paul was doing missionary work in Ephesus, and he took the Good News of Jesus back to Colosse, his hometown. "So Paul... held daily discussions at the lecture hall of Tyrannus. This went on for the next two years, so that people throughout the province of Asia—both Jews and Greeks—heard the word of the Lord." Acts 19:9b-10 (NLT)

Life Application: We need to take the Good News about Jesus wherever we go. "**This same Good News that came to you is going out all over the world.** It is bearing fruit everywhere by changing lives, just as it changed your lives from the day you first heard and understood the truth about God's wonderful grace." Colossians 1:6 (NLT)

Note: Paul had never met the believers in Colosse, but he prayed for them anyway. "We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding. Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better. We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need." Colossians 1:9b-11a (NLT)

Life Application: We need to be praying for believers in other parts of the world whom we've never met. "Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere." Ephesians 6:18 (NLT)

B. The Christians in Colosse were under pressure to syncretize their faith in Jesus with the philosophies/religious practices of their culture. Paul reminded them that Jesus is all we need.

syncretism = attempting to unite differing religious beliefs, cultural elements, or schools of thought.

"I want you to know how much I have agonized for you and for the church at Laodicea, and for many other believers who have never met me personally. I want them to be encouraged and knit together by strong ties of love. **I want them to have complete confidence that they understand God's mysterious plan, which is Christ himself. In him lie hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.** I am telling you this so no one will deceive you with well-crafted arguments. For though I am far away from you, my heart is with you. And I rejoice that you are living as you should and that your faith in Christ is strong."

Colossians 2:1-5 (NLT)

1. Jesus is all we need because Jesus is the visible image of the invisible God.

"Christ is the visible image of the invisible God." Colossians 1:15a (NLT)

"The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being..."

Hebrews 1:3a (NIV)

Life Application: Because Jesus is the exact representation of God, by knowing Jesus we can know everything we need to know about God. "We proclaim to you the one who existed from the beginning, whom we have heard and seen. We saw him with our own eyes and touched him with our own hands. He is the Word of life. **This one who is life itself was revealed to us, and we have seen him.** And now we testify and proclaim to you that he is the one who is eternal life." 1 John 1:1-2a (NLT)

2. Jesus is all we need because He created everything and holds everything together.

“He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can’t see—such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him. **He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together.**”

Colossians 1:15b-17 (NLT)

Life Application: Because Jesus created everything and holds everything together, we can trust that there is no problem He can’t handle. “Now to **him who is able to do immeasurably more** than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.” Ephesians 3:20-21 (NIV)

3. Jesus is all we need because Jesus is the head of the Church.

“Christ is also the head of the church, which is his body. He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead. So he is first in everything.” Colossians 1:18 (NLT)

Life Application: Because Jesus is the head of the Church, we can trust that He will take care of us. “No one hates his own body but feeds and cares for it, just as **Christ cares for the church**. And we are members of his body.” Ephesians 5:29-30 (NLT)

4. Jesus is all we need because He reconciled us filthy, rotten sinners to God and made us holy and blameless in God’s sight.

“For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ, and through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ’s blood on the cross. This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions. Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault.” Colossians 1:19-22 (NLT)

Life Application: Because Christ has reconciled us to God, we can boldly come to God about anything, anytime, anywhere. “And so, dear brothers and sisters, we can boldly enter heaven’s Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus. By his death, Jesus opened a new and life-giving way through the curtain into the Most Holy Place... let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him. For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ’s blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water.” Hebrews 10:19-22 (NLT)

Life Application: We must keep our lives centered on Christ. “But you must continue to believe this truth and stand firmly in it. **Don’t drift away** from the assurance you received when you heard the Good News.” Colossians 1:23a (NLT)

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Connect Group Discussion Questions:

Read Colossians 1:1-23, and then discuss the following questions:

1. Have you ever received a timely letter/email/text that greatly encouraged you in your faith? Who sent it to you? What did it mean to you?
2. Read Acts 19:8-10 & Colossians 1:6-9. Epaphras probably became a Christian while Paul was teaching in Ephesus and then went back to his hometown in Colosse (120 miles east) and started a church there. What do you think motivated Epaphras to do this?
3. Discuss the following statements Paul made about Jesus and why it matters what we believe about Jesus.
 - Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. (Colossians 1:15, Hebrews 1:3, 1 John 1:1-5)
 - Christ existed before anything was created. Everything was created by Him, through Him, and for Him. He holds all creation together. (Colossians 1:15b-17, Ephesians 3:20-21)
 - Christ is the head of the Church. (Colossians 1:18, Ephesians 5:25-30)
 - Christ reconciled us filthy, rotten sinners to God and made us holy and blameless in God’s sight. (Colossians 1:19-22, Hebrews 4:16 & 10:19-22)

4. In light of the statements in question #3, what does Centerpoint's motto "Centering lives on Christ" mean to you?
5. Why do you think Paul prayed often for Christians he'd never met living in another part of the world? (Ephesians 6:18)
6. Spend some time as a group praying for Christians in another part of the world.
7. Discuss the following quotations:

"Jesus is not one of many ways to approach God, nor is He the best of several ways; He is the only way."
A.W. Tozer

"Not only do we not know God except through Jesus Christ; We do not even know ourselves except through Jesus Christ." Blaise Pascal

"Jesus is the Head of the church. He expects His body to cooperate." Jack Wellman