

# Walking with the King:

## Simple Faith

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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, 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, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments. 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.

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

(Colossians 2:1-7 ESV)

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**WALKING WITH THE KING IS SIMPLE FAITH IN CHRIST**

## Sum and Substance

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Verses 1-5 of chapter provide sum up the letter thus far and give us the substance of the letter to come. This summary and substantiating comes as Paul considers 3 things: the letter's author, the letter's recipient, the letter's topic.

1. The author - Paul is contending for the Colossians, Laodiceans, and other Christians.
  - a. 2:1 - 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
  - b. Contending, struggling
    - i. Physical
    - ii. Labour
    - iii. Prayer

*Paul - struggling, particularly in prayer, on the churches behalf.*

2. The recipients - Paul is concerned that the Colossians/Laodiceans/Christians
  - a. 2:1,4 - 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... in order that no one may delude you
  - b. Delude means to deceive or be lead astray
  - c. Delude is used only here and James 1:22 - But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.
  - d. Threat facing the recipients is that they would be deceived so as to hear the Word but not do the word; they would talk the talk but not walk the walk

*The Colossians - something is threatening their walk with the King.*

3. The topic - The topic of the letter is primarily Christ the king, and secondarily, walking with him.
  - a. 2:2-3 -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, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge
  - b. The end goal of the contention - spiritual wellbeing found in increased knowledge and focus upon Christ
    - i. God's mystery - it has been revealed, they have put their faith in Christ
    - ii. All treasures of wisdom and knowledge
  - c. However, knowledge of Christ and the ensuing spiritual well-being comes in the context of the church
    - i. Depth of understanding and enriched fellowship with Christ is facilitated when believers' hearts are unified in love
    - ii. Our understanding of the mystery of Christ will be incomplete without fellowship
    - iii. Intellectual process, no matter how rigorous is insufficient
      1. I will not believe you have tasted the honey of the gospel if you can eat it all by yourself - C. H. Spurgeon

*Christ*

- *needs to be our focus*
- *the context is the church*
- *walking in Him is the remedy for being deluded*

## Walk in Him

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Verses 6-7 provide more details on the remedy for the delusion and deception that the Colossians, Laodiceans, and we might be facing. That remedy is walking with the King; walking in Him. This is the focus of the entire letter. Everything Paul has written up until this point was written for the purpose of these two verses. This is evident due to the word “therefore.” Whenever we see the word “therefore,” we should ask “What is the therefore there for?” Furthermore, everything that follows these two verses is an explanation of what they mean. The whole letter hinges on these two verses.

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

Walking in Him points to 3 things:

1. “Walking in Him” = our faith
2. “Walking” suggests a simple faith
3. “In Him” indicates union with Christ

1. Our faith:

- a. FORMAL: The desire and ability to trust and obey God.
- b. PRACTICAL: trusting God enough to obey him.

2. Walking:

- a. simple and uncomplicated
- b. not unimportant - child’s first steps

3. In Him:

- a. Union with Christ:

Grudem: Union with Christ is a phrase used to summarize several different relationships between believers and Christ, through which Christians receive every benefit of salvation. These relationships include the fact that we are in Christ, Christ is in us, we are like Christ, and we are with Christ.

## DRISCOLL MOMENT

Walking = rooted in him

Walking = built up in him

Walking = established in the faith

Walking = abounding in thanksgiving

## Indicatives and Imperatives

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Scripture contains both indicatives and imperatives. Colossians gives perhaps the clearest delineation of the two in all of the Bible. Before we consider the indicatives and imperatives in Colossians, let's define the two words.

- Definitions
  - Indicatives are statements or truths that show, signify, or point out something. They **indicate** something to be so.
  - Imperatives are commands
  - Douglas Moo, in his commentary on Colossians, lists 28 different imperatives, or commands, in chapters 2, 3, and 4.

- Both are in Colossians (and in the rest of the Bible)  
Imperatives - all after chapter 1
  1. See to it (2:8)
  2. Do not let anyone judge you (2:16)
  3. Do not let anyone . . . disqualify you (2:18)
  4. Set your hearts on things above (3:1)
  5. Set your minds on things above” (3:2)
  6. Put to death (3:5)
  7. You must . . . rid yourselves (3:8)
  8. Do not lie to each other (3:9)
  9. Clothe yourselves (3:12)
  10. Bear with each other (3:13)
  11. Forgive one another (3:13)
  12. Forgive (3:13)
  13. Put on love (3:14)
  14. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts (3:15)
  15. Be thankful (3:15)
  16. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly (3:16)
  17. Do it all (3:17)
  18. Wives, submit yourselves to your own husband (3:18)
  19. Husbands, love your wives (3:19)
  20. Children, obey your parents (3:20)
  21. Fathers, do not embitter your children (3:21)
  22. Slaves, obey your earthly masters (3:22)
  23. Work at it with all your heart (3:23)
  24. Masters, provide your slaves with what is right and fair (4:1)
  25. Devote yourselves to prayer (4:2)
  26. Pray for us, too (4:3)
  27. Be wise (4:5)
  28. Let your conversation be always full of grace (4:6)

Indicatives - all in chapter 1

1. God is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (1:3)
2. Jesus is Lord and Christ (1:3)
3. We have hope laid up for in heaven (1:5)
4. The gospel is the grace of God in truth (1:5-7)
5. God is gloriously mighty (1:11)
6. The Father has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light (1:12)
7. The Father has delivered us from the domain of darkness (1:13)
8. The Father has transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son (1:13)
9. We have redemption in the Son(1:14)
10. We have forgiveness of sins (1:14)
11. The Son is the image of the invisible God (1:15)
12. The Son is the firstborn of all creation (1:15)
13. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth (1:16)
14. All things were created through the Son (1:16)
15. All things were created for the Son (1:16)
16. The Son is before all things (1:17)
17. In the Son all things hold together (1:17)
18. The Son is the head of the body, the church (1:18)
19. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead (1:18)
20. The Son will be preeminent in all things (1:18)
21. In the Son all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell (1:19)
22. All things will be reconciled to the Son through his blood (1:20)
23. You were once alienated and hostile towards God (1:21)
24. The Son has now reconciled you in his body of flesh by his death (1:22)
25. The Son reconciled you to present you holy and blameless and above (1:22)
26. The Son reconciled you to present you before the Father(1:22)
27. The Son is the mystery hidden for ages but is now revealed to his saints (1:26-27)
28. God chose to make known to you how great are the riches of the glory of Christ (1:27)

- **Two Mistakes with Indicatives and Imperatives**
    - There are two erroneous ways of thinking about indicatives and imperatives which, if we're not careful, will lead to several dangerous - 1) Embracing an Either/Or approach to indicatives and imperatives, 2) Reversing the Biblical order
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1. **Embracing Either/Or Instead Of Both/And**
    - a. Lawlessness/antinomianism - The word antinomianism comes from the Greek anti, against, and nomos, law. It is the unbiblical practice of living without regard to the righteousness of God, using God's grace as a license to sin, and trusting grace to cleanse of sin. In other words, since grace is infinite and we are saved by grace, then we can sin all we want and still be saved.
    - b. Moralism
      - i. reducing the gospel to right behavior
      - ii. correct behavior becomes an end in and of itself
      - iii. suggesting that what God ultimately expects is that we behave
      - iv. we call people to proper actions instead of calling them to faith in Christ
  
  2. **Reverse The Biblical Order**
    - a. Indicatives precede Imperatives - the order is important
    - b. If we reverse the order
      - i. Legalism - Legalism is pursuing good works with the intention of earning God's favor. The point is to save one's self. It is good works without believing that God justifies us by faith alone. John Piper explains it this way: "The essence of legalism is when faith is not the engine of obedience"
    - c. If we preserve the order
      - i. Motivation
      - ii. Empowerment by faith in the promises



Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith.

*“If you believe in Jesus Christ, that he is eternal, without beginning and without end, that he always was continuing; if you believe that he is Creator of everything, every cosmic speck across trillions of light-years of trackless space, the Creator of the textures and shapes and colors that daily dazzle your eyes; if you believe that he is the sustainer of all creation, the force that is presently holding the atoms of your body, your town, this universe together, and that without him all would dissolve; if you believe that he is the mystery, the incarnate reconciler who will one day reconcile the universe and redeem humanity to himself; if you believe that he is the lover of your soul, who loves you with a love bounded only by his infinitude; then, despite the fact that life will be full of trouble, nothing much will go wrong. Your vision of Christ will quicken and shape your life. What you believe about Christ makes all the difference in the world now and in eternity.” R. Kent Hughes, Preaching the Word*

### LUTHER MOMENT

**“gospel obligations must be based on gospel declarations”**

**This is the simple faith:**

- **Exult in the indicatives then exert in the imperatives!**
- **Trust God enough to obey Him.**
- **Walking with the King is simple faith in Christ.**