

HOW TO WALK WELL COLOSSIANS 2:6-10

Faced with people claiming: “We can do it ourselves”

Paul demonstrates that we *can't* do it ourselves.

If *salvation* depended on us, we'd be left without hope.

Even now, having trusted Christ for salvation,

we still can't earn *right to fellowship* with a holy God.

Paul warns us not to be led astray by teachers with a different message, even if wrapped in appealing, logical arguments. 2:1-5

We shouldn't pay attention to religions, cults,

or even teachers from our own church,

if they push us to try to earn our way.

From beginning to end, salvation & *daily living*, depend on Christ's finished work

We can't add anything to what He has done.

Conclusion: walk by trusting Christ 2:6

“As you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him”

As we received Christ by faith,
we live by faith in Him also.

Larry Christenson's parable of young man:

whose father gave him beautiful new red car:

He admired it. He pushed it everywhere he went.

He told everyone: “My father gave it to me—free gift!”

He never got in & let car take him to his destination!

“Free gift from my Father—least I can do is push it!”

2:7 affirms HOW we walk by faith:

“rooted & built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, & overflowing with thankfulness”

We’ve “Put down our roots” in Him—by faith.

Roots are planted in Him, **not** in our performance

We’re “built up” in Him—strengthened by faith

Process is ongoing; never stops, as long as we live

=> We’re overflowing with gratitude.

We earn nothing. He gives it to us in Christ.

Paul’s *theological* perspective isn’t hard to explain, problem comes when we try to live this way.

What’s difference in practice between these lifestyles?

How do we live when we try to perform good works?

How do we live when we live by faith in Christ?

WARNING: DON’T BE TAKEN CAPTIVE 2:8

“See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy & empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits [basic principles] of the world, & not according to Christ.”

Gospel contradicts principles of world: **“We can do it!”**

We hope we can earn our way by *our performance*

—obeying rules & doing good works.

That deceives & enslaves <= we *never* measure up!

2 TOOLS TAKE US CAPTIVE:

We’re taken captive by human philosophy

It’s logical: we must do something to earn our way!

Gospel & human thinking will *never* agree!

Gospel seems *foolish* to human thinking

We’re taken captive by “empty deception.”

Empty & meaningless, but still leads us astray.

Performance is presented as way to contentment.

We end up *empty* when we discover it's *impossible* to *perform* well enough to reach God's standard.

We don't find satisfaction; we find slavery!

What are bases of this enslaving system?

It's according to human traditions

Judaizers base their ideas on tradition.

We don't see people preaching Pharisaic teachings

We DO find human traditions—*our rules*—that detour people & lead US away from trusting Christ.

It's acc. to principles of the world Gal. 4:3

"When we were children, we were in slavery under the basic principles of the world."

"Basic principles" are NOT "worldly" practices

He's talking about *world's idea*: "*I can do it!*"

"God helps those who help themselves!"

"God will love us more if we're good."

Gal.: these "rudiments" were ***enslaving us***, until Christ came & gave us new life.

Bible contrasts world's principles with God's

World tells us to trust *our* accomplishments

God's plan is based on different principles:

salvation/living by faith alone, plus nothing!

Modern religions deny these principles.

Employ **same principles the world pursues.**

It's NOT according to Christ.

Pleasing God by works isn't *His* way; it's man's way.

Jesus came to present a different way. **John 14:6**

Jesus IS **the** way, the truth and the life.

No one can come to God, except by Him.

[What's the "fundamental principle" Jesus presents?]

COMPLETE PROVISION IN CHRIST 2:9-10 "In him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰ & you've been filled in him, who's the head of all rule & authority."

2 THEOLOGICAL PREMISES.

2:9 "In Christ all the fullness of God lives in bodily form"

Key word: "**fullness**" "Complete", full measure, totality

Underlines concept, affirming "*the totality,*" of GOD, lives in Him, in bodily/visible form.

1. The totality of God is in Christ

What people saw when they looked at our Lord lacked *nothing*, of all God is. **He's 100% God!**

Everything that God is, is present in Jesus!

[2nd premise flows out of *our* relationship with Jesus:] **2:10** "You've been given fullness in Christ..."

2. When we're in Him, WE're COMPLETE.

We too reach a "full measure."

When Christ lives in us, totality of God is in us.

=> ***We lack NOTHING!***

Facing people who want to enslave us under rules and works, Paul assures us: Christ has already provided everything we need.

Christ did it all. God sees us ***complete in Him!***

What difference will this make in our lives?

People who want to live by world's philosophy, trusting *our* ability to please God, *never make it!*

We'll *NEVER* satisfy God's demands.
But, the full provision is in Christ. He's God!
He lacks nothing! He provides everything we need
We can't add *anything* to what He's already done!
In spite of fact that this is essence of gospel,
Confusion abounds: We think we have to help God out.
We'll *NEVER* be good enough to score pts with God.
He's *already* given us only score we'll *EVER* need
We serve Him—NOT to gain points, but to say thanks!
—expressing gratitude for what He's done for us.
Let's enjoy what we already have through Christ!
Paul' message summed up in song writer's words:
*Thou, O Christ, art all I want
More than all in Thee I find.*