

Convictions in Our Walk “In” God Colossians 2

She had taken her training very seriously. It seemed to be her nature to be the best in all that she did. The race she was about to run was not simply a blip on the radar screen; it had been in her mind for months. Her conviction to excel in her running became the lens through which she lived her life. It affected her diet, rest, the way she worked out, and even her thinking. Perhaps at times it was even a distraction from her studies.

The day of the race she seemed to be in her own world, undistracted by the hundreds of participants and multiple events you would expect at a track meet. As some of us waved and shouted encouragement from the stands, she seemed almost perturbed that we would intrude on her concentration as she briefly glanced at us, only to continue her pre-race routine. That is the mark of a good athlete.

At the sound of the starting gun, she sprang from the blocks in a burst of confidence for the grueling 400 meter dash. As the race progressed, you could see the toll on each runner. As “our girl” entered the last turn, most notable was the set jaw of determination, yet the body was showing signs of exhaustion. Could she make it?

It wasn’t until then that I noticed her mother had left her seat and was at the final turn shouting—no screaming—words of encouragement as she headed down the final straightaway. As she neared the finish line, the once “calm” father had left his seat as well and was leaning over the rail saying, “You can do it! You know it; you can make it!” And she did. First place and a personal best.

How many times have we been in the middle of the race and felt like we have given it our best as we wonder if we can make it. Things seem to be going well, and then for some unexpected reason . . . any reason . . . we feel alone, perhaps helpless, and privately saying, “If I just had someone to encourage me, I think I could do it.”

I find this to be so true of the Christian life. There are those times when we sense all is going well, as they may well be; but then the unexpected occurs, and we need encouragement. What if it isn’t there?

The church at Colossae was at that very place when Paul wrote a very special letter of encouragement. They were a young church, growing spiritually, and had a deep love for each other and their surrounding community. Then the unexpected came. At first it was unrecognizable. It wasn’t a flagrant, physical type of thing but a more subtle influence that distracted their thinking about the core of their faith in Jesus Christ and their “*focus*” on Him.

Paul saw it, and as a loving *parent* he shouted his encouragement through this very special letter to this very special people. We can learn much about encouragement from this letter.

LIFE RESPONSE:

1. This week **MEMORIZE** and **MEDITATE** on Colossians 2:6-7, *“Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.”*
 - (a) Think about the moment you placed your trust in Christ. How is that same trust or faith in Christ at salvation revealed in your daily conduct? What considerations does this question raise about your walk?
 - (b) Upon what/who do you depend for encouragement in your spiritual growth and maturity? In word of God? Prayer? Others?
2. Each one of us is a leader in some sphere of life. As you read Colossians 2:1-5 list as many leadership, perhaps we should say character, qualities you can find in these five verses. How do you see the two dimensions of influence, the human and the spiritual, in how you “lead” others?
3. If someone were to look at your life, what do they see? Another question is *who* do they see? What’s the difference between these two questions?
4. This week continue to pray Colossians 1:6-12 in the first person as your own personal prayer. Write it out. What is God showing you from this prayer? How would you define the importance of this prayer for every believer? Pray this prayer as Paul would pray for our church.

“Life is an empty bubble on the sea of nothingness.” ~ John Paul Sartre

“I have come that you might have life and have it abundantly.” ~ Jesus Christ

“I ask that I may be filled with the knowledge of Your **WILL** in all spiritual wisdom and understanding. . .”

“That I might **WALK** in a manner worthy of the Lord in every respect . . .”

THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE LEADER: Colossians 2:1-5

The Human Element
“Struggle”

Unceasing prayer

An objective

Affirmation

The Spiritual Element

Christology

Full understanding of the true knowledge of God's mystery.
Paul's prayer was for a true knowledge of Christ.

Verse 4 – Paul's Warning #1

Paul's prayer centered on the deity of Christ and one's knowledge of Him as central to one's *walk*.

THE CONVICTON OF THE PEOPLE:

Colossians 2:6-10

Their Walk in Him

★Walk must be in simple faith in Him

“Having been firmly rooted” in Him
Going back to our “roots”

- * Confession
- * Repentance
- * Walk

★Walk being built up in Him

How?

- * The Word of God
- * Prayer
- * Encouragement

“Established” is a product

Verse 8 - Paul's Warning #2

Their Fullness of Him

The Fullness of Him

Verse 9 – Jesus Christ is fully God in bodily form.

Verse 10 – And in Him you have been made complete.

* 2 Peter 1:1-4

* Philippians 3:10ff

* Ephesians 4:11-13