**Christ Jesus, the Lord of Your Life**

Colossians 2:6-10

**Introduction**

We have several methods for determining who is going to be the leader in a given situation: hand-over-hand on a baseball bat, flipping a coin, rock-paper-scissors, playoffs, voting, drawing straws, etc. How do you decide who is going to be the leader in your life? The decision is pivotal. Too often, Christians allow this important decision to be left to an arbitrary choice of whomever or whatever comes out on top. Paul writes to the believers in Colossae indicating that the matter should already be settled in the life of a Christian. *“This paragraph…is the heart of Colossians. In these two verses, Paul succinctly summarizes the basic response that he wants from his readers…we are to continue to live in Him, to work out just what it means in both our thinking and our acting to live under the Lordship of Christ. (Moo)”* We will consider Paul’s words to the Colossians to help us in this most important decision in our lives.

1. **The Colossians had received Christ Jesus the Lord. (v. 6a)**
2. Epaphras had preached Christ to them. (1:7) They had believed the gospel of Jesus Christ.
3. Paul says that they “received” Christ Jesus the Lord. The Colossians did not receive a set of traditions, a set of rules, or a collection of wise sayings. They received the person of Jesus Christ.
4. There is significance to each name.
   1. They received “Christ,” meaning “The Anointed One.” They had to accept Him as the promised Messiah.
   2. They received “Jesus,” meaning “Jehovah is salvation.” They had to receive Jesus as their Savior.
   3. While both of these titles are equally significant, emphasis appears to be placed on the final designation: “the Lord.”
      1. This was the confession of the early Christians. “Jesus is Lord.”
      2. This was the confession that landed them in prison and sent many to their death.
      3. Rome only recognized Caesar as lord. To acknowledge Jesus as Lord placed you in opposition to Caesar.
      4. Yet these Colossian believers had received Christ Jesus as the Lord.
5. This verse is a summary of all Paul had emphasized to this point regarding the Lordship of Christ.
6. He is Lord of creation. (1:15-17)
7. He is Lord of the new creation. (1:18-22)
8. He is the central Person of the mystery of human history. (1:26-27)
9. He is the focal point of our preaching. (1:28-29)
10. He is the repository of all spiritual wealth. (2:3)
11. **Since the Colossians had received Christ Jesus as Lord, Paul exhorted them to live with Christ as the Lord of their lives.**
    1. Since they have received THE Lord, they ought to live like it.
12. Paul exhorts them to “walk …in Him.”
13. This is the first imperative (command) of the letter. Indicatives teach; imperatives exhort. *“Paul could never talk about theology for long without application; nor could he speak for long about the Christian life without allusion to the theology that buttresses and gives shape to that life. (Moo)”*
14. Their walk has to do with how they live. It is how you conduct your daily life. He had prayed for their Christian walk. (1:10. Now, he exhorts them to live under Christ’s authority in their lives.
    1. This is possible because of God’s work in their lives.
       * 1. The first three participles in this section are all in the passive voice. (Active voice: Johnny threw the ball. Passive voice: The ball was thrown to Timmy.)
15. This would indicate that someone other than the Colossians accomplished the actions of the verbs.
16. Many would refer to them as divine passives, indicating that it was God at work behind the scenes. If that is the case, what did God do and what was He doing?
17. Note: These are similar to the four participles in 1:10-12, which provided the characteristics of those who are pleasing the Lord. Here, those who are living with Christ as the central focus of their lives can do so because they are rooted in Him, being built up in Him, and being established in the faith as they have been taught.
18. **Paul provided illustrations of those who are living with Christ as the Lord of their lives.** 
    1. He uses an illustration from horticulture to show the source of their lives.
19. They are rooted. (This is in perfect tense—an action that was completed in the past that has ongoing results).
20. Rooted means to cause a person or a thing to be thoroughly grounded. This indicates a settled condition.
21. Their source is Christ for all of life. (John 15) Their stability is rooted in Christ.
    1. He uses an illustration from architecture to illustrate the continued work of God in their lives.
22. They are built up in Him. (present passive participle)
23. He is adding to their lives.
24. He has a design for their lives. His work in their lives will take the shape of spiritual growth.
25. God is building you up. (Acts 20:32, Ephesians 2:20, Jude 1:20)
    1. He uses a legal term from the courts to illustrate how God is settling the nature of their lives.
       1. He is establishing them in the faith.
       2. This causes them to be firm or unwavering.
       3. This would be the result of the first two.
    2. The result of such divine action in their lives should be a life overflowing with thanksgiving.
       1. Abounding – present active participle.
       2. *“…gratitude to God is to be the main characteristic of God’s people …The church that learns truly to worship God is a church growing to full maturity. (Wright)”*
26. **The remainder of the letter will make application of this truth to their daily lives.** 
    1. Since Jesus is the Lord, there is no reason they should be deceived by the false teachers (2:8-23). *“A grounded, growing, grateful believer will not be led astray.* *(Wiersbe)”*
    2. Since Jesus is the Lord, it ought to show up in their daily lives. (3:1-4:6)
       1. He is to be Lord over their desires and affections. (3:5-17)
       2. He is to be Lord over their homes. (3:18-21)
       3. He is to be Lord over their work. (3:22-4:1)
       4. He is to be Lord over their labor in the harvest field. (4:2-6)
       5. He is to be Lord over their friendships. (4:7-18)

1. **Central Idea: Those who have received Christ Jesus as the Lord should live with Christ as the Lord of their lives.**
2. Christ Jesus ought to be the Lord of what you believe.
3. Christ Jesus ought to be the Lord of what you do.
4. Is He Lord over your desires and affections? Over the structure and attitudes of your home? Over your work, including your motivation for work and the way you treat others? Is He Lord over your labor in the harvest? Over your friendships?

**Conclusion**

The fact that He is Lord ought to show up more than just on a bumper sticker. It should not just be the words on a sign at the entryway of our homes: “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” Christ Jesus ought to be the Lord of the Christian’s life.