

# BBC CORE

Gospel | Spirit | Community | Mission

## Week 1: Rooted in the Gospel

### Introduction:

This week's message is based on Paul's letter to the Colossians. The church in Colossi had begun to add to the simple gospel message, which led to a belief system (called Gnosticism) that separated the physical from the spiritual. This led to varying beliefs. Some lived licentiously, considering the body to have no impact on spiritual and eternal matters, while others lived lives of extreme self-denial. These Christians believed that there were different levels of holiness to be aspired to, which just led to a ladder-climbing religion and not to the gospel freedom that Christ died to give them.

To some degree, we too have bought into some of these beliefs. We have reduced the gospel to a transaction that gets us into heaven when we die, and we have completely lost touch with how the gospel can and should transform our daily lives and choices. As a result we have a few good moments with God, but live the rest of our lives in quiet guilt and shame because we see no real change in our desires, no freedom from sinful patterns and lifeless choices, and so we remain spiritual infants.

We need to consider how our walk with Christ is going, and whether or not we are genuinely believing and applying the gospel to our everyday lives. For many of us, just acknowledging that we do not know how to live out the gospel from the heart, will be a profoundly significant step, and will steer us in the right gospel trajectory.

### Today's Text: Colossians 2:6-15

#### 1. The Gospel Is Both A Momentary Receipt And A Life-Long Response

- Read Colossians 2:6

*"...as you received Christ Jesus the Lord..."* This statement Paul uses is so incredibly rich in meaning:

- **Received** - indicates a one way transaction of giving. We were given God's grace, in Christ, because we were unable to save ourselves
- **Christ** - the promised Messiah
- **Jesus** - the historical man from Nazareth that history records as having been crucified, and whose followers claimed to have risen from the dead
- **Lord** - Paul uses this term to explain that Jesus is God, the boss, the meaning of life and author of all

Our response to God's gift of salvation does happen in a moment in time, when we receive it. But it also means submitting to his Lordship, rule and reign over our lives. This means that, when we receive Christ, in the same breath, we surrender our will and bow our knee to his.

- ❖ Q: What does it mean that Christ is *Lord*?
- ❖ Q: Why do you think we so often reduce the gospel to just the receiving of the gift of grace, and then living as though it has no power to transform us in this life?
- ❖ Q: In what particular area of your life have you not bowed the knee to Christ's Lordship, and what is holding you back from doing that?

#### 2. Our Life-Long Response To The Gospel Has Mixed Metaphor Marks of Maturity

- Read Colossians 2:7

To explain the gospel's impact on our lives, Paul says that the gospel must be:

- **Rooted** - deeply planted so that it is not easily moved
- **Built up** - adding knowledge, faith and trust, layer by layer
- **Established** - having an inner strength, that allows one to hold on when tragedy and turmoil hit us
- **Abounding in thanksgiving** - having so much joy and gratitude in the gospel that it overflows

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## Transparency Moments:

- ❖ Q: How deep are your gospel roots - are you easily swayed and confused by other worldviews or religions, or are you steadfast in your understanding of the gospel?  
Christians only develop spiritual maturity through intentionally building up their knowledge, faith and trust, layer by layer.
- ❖ Q: Are you still a spiritual infant, have you plateaued in recent years, or are you continually growing towards spiritual maturity?
- ❖ Q: What can you do intentionally to establish your faith more deeply in 2016? (Perhaps consider some of the options BBC is offering: Bible 101, Bible 201, Apologetics, Systematic Theology & GROW).
- ❖ Q: Are you known for being incredibly thankful for the gospel and why do you think this is the case?

### 3. Maturing Disciples Use Gospel Prepositions

- Read Colossians 2:8-10

The Colossians needed to be reminded that, through his gift of salvation to them, Christ was in them and that they were in Christ. Christ is not one of many role players in our salvation - he is the one and only redeemer, who rescues us and unites us to himself. We need to believe that we are in him and that he is in us.

- ❖ Q: How do you think being "in Christ" should impact the way we view our lives as believers?

### 4. Maturing Disciples Have Faith in God's Promise and God's Power

- Read Colossians 2:11-12

In baptism, Christians publically declare that they are the covenant people of God, and that they have died to their old life and risen to their new life "in Christ". When we are saved, we not only change positionally, but we are also empowered to live as the people of God, through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

- ❖ Q: In what ways have you seen the power of God change YOU, since becoming a follower of Christ?
- ❖ Q: In what particular area of your life have you failed to believe that God's power is enough to change you, and why do you think that is?

### 5. Maturing Disciples Don't Try Pay For What Has Already Been Bought

- Read Colossians 2:13-15

On the cross, Christ paid our debt in FULL and defeated our enemy.

- ❖ Q: Why do so many of us struggle to believe (at a heart level) that our sin has been paid for *in full*, and that there is no more debt to pay?
- ❖ Q: If we genuinely grasped that even our secret sins, that we seem to struggle to put to death, are also paid in full, how do you think we would respond to God?

### 6. Maturing Disciples Seek To Live As Those Who Are Being Made New

- Read Colossians 3:1-10

Maturing disciples of Christ are to seek, set and kill:

- Seek the things that are above
- Set their minds on things above
- Kill the sin that marked their old life

## Quiet Reflection Time:

- ❖ Many of us Christians, who have walked with Christ over many years, have allowed sinful thought patterns, worldly attitudes, behaviours, and ungodly character to take root, and we have forgotten that sin is also a matter of the heart and not just morality. We all battle with some of these things: anger, pride, lust, selfishness, greed, envy, unforgiveness, bitterness, gossip, slander, rebellion... the list is endless. Ask the Lord to reveal the areas in your life that need to be put to death because they are still part of your old nature, and not fitting for a child of God.