



TRUSTING CHRIST JESUS AS LORD



Treasuring the Treasure

OUTLINE ... (Colossians 2:1-8 ESV)

1. DISCOVERING THAT ALL THE TREASURE IS IN CHRIST ...

When we discover that Christ is our treasure ... that all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are found in Christ, our hearts are strengthened and knit together in love as we are filled with the full assurance of the spiritual riches of the wisdom and knowledge which is found in Jesus Christ alone, 2:1-3.

- (Colossians 2:1-3 ESV) 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, 2 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, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.
- (Ephesians 1:3 ESV) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,

2. DISCARDING EVERYTHING ELSE ...

When we treasure the treasure—what we have in Christ, the treasure becomes our exclusive standard of measure and we discard the worthless arguments of deceit and delusion, 2:4.

- (Colossians 2:4 ESV) I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments.

3. STANDING FIRMLY TOGETHER ...

When we treasure the treasure—what we have in Christ, we embrace the sacrifice and the reward of standing together as a fellowship in good order and in the firmness of the faith—sound biblical doctrine, 2:5.

- (Colossians 2:5 ESV) 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.

4. LIVING THE LIFE ...

When we treasure the treasure, we taste

the goodness of the Lord that comes from living under his lordship, and we abound in thanksgiving as we live under the sovereign, majestic rule of our Lord Jesus Christ, 2:6-7, cf. Psalm 34:8.

- (Colossians 2:6-7 ESV) **Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, 7 rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.**
- (Psalm 34:8 NLT) Taste and see that the LORD is good. Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in him!

WHEN CHRIST IS YOUR LIFE, JESUS IS LORD!

AND WHEN CHRIST, WHO IS YOUR LIFE,

IS REVEALED TO THE WHOLE WORLD,
YOU WILL SHARE IN ALL HIS GLORY.

(COLOSSIANS 3:4 NLT)

WHEN CHRIST IS OUR LIFE ...

- We live in Christ.
- We live in Christ as we received him.
- We live in his abundance.

WHEN CHRIST IS OUR LIFE ...

- We do not seek something "more" or "other" than Christ.
- We are rooted in Christ.
- We are built up in Christ.
- We are established in the biblical doctrine of Christ.

WHEN CHRIST IS OUR LIFE ...

- Christ is our life.
- We are immersed "in Christ."
- We thrive in his abundance.
- We abound in thanksgiving.

5. "SEEING TO IT" THAT WE ARE NOT TAKEN CAPTIVE AND OUR TREASURE STOLEN ...

When we treasure the treasure, we disdain the philosophies and high-sounding nonsense

of humans and refuse to be taken captive or even give audience to any influence which dishonors our Lord, 2:8.

- (Colossians 2:8 ESV) **See to it that no one takes you captive** by philosophy and empty deceit, **according to** human tradition, **according to** the elemental spirits of the world, **and not according to Christ.**

A person's thought life is taken captive when he or she listens to or gives an audience to—establishes a dialogue or a rapport with—the plausible (persuasive) arguments that are ...

- **according to** human tradition,
- **according to** the elemental spirits of the world,
- **and not according to Christ.**

What can we do about that?

How do we make sure that our thoughts are "*according to Christ?*"

As opposed to allowing someone to take us captive by leading our thoughts away from Christ, we are to "take every thought captive to obey Christ." We are to bring every thought before Christ for his approval. How do we do that? What is our standard? The Bible—the word of God.

Isn't it correct to say that there are ultimately only two sources of information to possess or to pursue? Information from God or information from another source.

Our text breaks it down to two sources:

- Human sources which are influenced by the spiritual rulers and influences of this world.
 - And that which is "according to Christ."
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- (2 Corinthians 10:5–6 ESV) We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, **and take every thought captive to obey Christ,** 6 being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete.

- (2 Corinthians 11:3–4 ESV) But I am afraid that as **the serpent deceived Eve** by his cunning, your **thoughts** will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. 4 For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough.

Eve knew the truth and recited the truth. Her problem was that she allowed someone to convince her that she needed *MORE* ... that she did not have the whole truth ...

- (2 Corinthians 11:3 NKJV) But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.
- (2 Corinthians 11:4 NCV) You are very patient with anyone who comes to you and preaches a different Jesus from the one we preached. You are very willing to accept a spirit or gospel that is different from the Spirit and Good News you received from us.
- (Genesis 3:1–6 NLT) The serpent was the shrewdest—[crafty, clever, cunning]—of all the wild animals the LORD God had made. One day he asked the woman, "Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?" 2 "Of course we may eat fruit from the trees in the garden," the woman replied. 3 "It's only the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God said, 'You must not eat it or even touch it; if you do, you will die.'" 4 "You won't die!" the serpent replied to the woman. 5 "God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil." 6 The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too.

GRANT OSBORNE ... These two verses sum up the letter thus far and launch into its central theme: correction of the false doctrines on the grounds of the accepted truths of the gospel. [Osborne, G. R. (2016). *Colossians & Philemon: Verse by Verse* (p. 66). Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.]

With the lordship of Christ governing their lives, the Colossians must “continue to walk in him” [Ibid. (pp. 66–67).]

KENT HUGHES ... Paul’s point is that the Colossians had “received Christ Jesus as Lord” and that they would remain safe from spiritual seduction (apostasy) if they continued to walk in submission to him. [Hughes, R. K. (1989). *Colossians and Philemon: the supremacy of Christ* (p. 61). Westchester, IL: Crossway Books.]

And they received him as “Lord.” “Lord” gathers up all that Paul had previously said about Christ in Colossians. It is a dynamic, comprehensive title. When the Colossians received him, they received him in full knowledge of this teaching, and they bowed before him as their Sovereign, their Lord! [Ibid. (p. 60).]

DOUGLAS MOO ... The first clause succinctly restates the key theological argument of the letter to this point: Jesus Christ is Lord, and we have entered into his Lordship. The second clause then summarizes the specific commands and warnings that follow: 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, D. J. (2008). *The letters to the Colossians and to Philemon* (p. 177). Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Pub. Co.]

Paul’s choice of the verb “receive” in the first clause is significant. ... **Paul refers here not to the receiving of teaching, or tradition, or the word of God, but of Christ himself.** [Ibid. (pp. 177–178).]

DOUGLAS MOO ... Whatever precise sense we end up giving to “the elements of the world,” **it is at any rate clear that the real sting in Paul’s characterization of the false teachers comes in the third, negative description: it is not “according to Christ.” ... Christ is the one in whom God exclusively is to be found, the one through whom the world was created and through whom it is redeemed, and the one who has decisively defeated all the hostile powers. Any teaching that in any way detracts from Christ’s exclusive role is by definition both wrong and ineffective. ... But, for Paul, in this case, addition means subtraction: one cannot “add” to Christ without, in effect, subtracting from his exclusive place in creation and in salvation history.** [Ibid. (pp. 192–193).]

GRANT OSBORNE ... (2:8) - Paul has been preparing for this moment with nearly every point he has made thus far. Now he opens his arguments countering the dangerous ideas being promulgated by certain teachers at Colossae. He begins strongly with “See to it” (or, perhaps better, “Beware!”), **a frequent signal prior to his pointing out a serious danger to the church. Spiritual vigilance is called for in response to such enemies of God, who often go tolerated and unexposed (as in the letters to Pergamum and Thyatira in Revelation 2:12–29).** [Osborne, G. R. (2016). *Colossians & Philemon: Verse by Verse* (p. 68). Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.]

However, the real source of these ideas is not merely human; they stem from “the elemental spiritual forces (Greek: stoicheia) of this world”—from the influence of demonic powers. This provides the very definition of heresy, in that the proponents of these lies are under satanic influence. ... **The teachings of these heretics do indeed constitute “the devil’s schemes” (Ephesians 6:11), and the purveyors of such pervasive falsehoods are virtually demon-possessed.** [Ibid. (pp. 69–70).]