

Rooted and Built Up in Christ
Colossians 2:4-7
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The Danger of Deception
Colossians 2:4 (HCSB)
I am saying this so that no one will **deceive you** with **persuasive** arguments.

- Assuring them of the sufficiency of Christ was designed to protect them from deception
- The false teachers used beguiling speech
- **Deception** is both cruel and severely damaging
- **Only the gospel** is the power of God for salvation, even if false teachings sound appealing (Romans 1:15, 16)

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Paul Cares Deeply for the Church
Colossians 2:5 (HCSB)
For I may be absent in body, but I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see how **well ordered** you are and the strength of your faith in Christ.

- There is no mystical “soul travel” here
- False teachers may have used Paul’s absence against him
- “Well ordered” means ‘well ordered Christian behavior’
- This may be a military analogy

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The Christian Life Proceeds as it Began
Colossians 2:6 (HCSB)
Therefore, **as you have received Christ** Jesus the Lord, **walk in Him**

- They received Christ by grace through faith (Eph. 2:8)
- Walk is an imperative in the Greek
- The command to “walk in the Spirit” (Gal. 5:16) is parallel to this in thought

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The Sufficiency of Christ for Living
Colossians 2:7 (HCSB)
rooted and **built up** in Him and **established** in the faith, just as you were taught, overflowing with gratitude.

- “Christ alone” is not merely a technical doctrine, but the practical foundation for Christian living
- Paul uses participles as practical metaphors: rooted (horticulture); built up (building); established (legal)

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Implications and Applications

- Deceivers are often eloquent and persuasive
- We must live according to Christ, not human tradition
- The Christian life proceeds on the same basis it began

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Eloquent Error

1Timothy 6:20-21 (NASB)

O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you, avoiding worldly and empty chatter and the opposing arguments of what is falsely called "knowledge" which some have professed and thus **gone astray from the faith**.

2Corinthians 11:3 "But I am afraid that, as the serpent **deceived Eve by his craftiness**, your minds will be **led astray** from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ."

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Christ Not Tradition

2John 1:9 (NASB)

Anyone who **goes too far** and does not abide in **the teaching of Christ**, does not have God; the one who **abides in the teaching**, he has both the Father and the Son.

- "Too far" is anything outside of the teachings of Christ and His apostles
- "Abide" means to "stay put"
- We cannot rightly add to the doctrine of Christ
- Those who go beyond Christ, leave Christ altogether

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The Christian Life Proceeds in Christ

Galatians 3:3 (NASB)

Are you so foolish? Having **begun by the Spirit**, are you now being **perfected by the flesh**?

Galatians 3:5 (NASB)

So then, does He who **provides you with the Spirit** and works miracles among you, do it **by the works of the Law**, or by hearing with faith?

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Human Traditions Added to Christ

Colossians 2:8 a (HCSB)

Be careful that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit **based on human tradition**

- "Christian Psychology"
- Eco-feminism
- Generational Curses
- Mysticism
- Church Growth Theory

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Human Traditions Added to Christ

- Healing of memories
- New revelations
- Pietism
- Latter day apostles and prophets
- Spiritual warfare teachings
- Spiritual disciplines
- Missional
- Theophostic Prayer Ministry
- Panentheism

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The Christian Life Proceeds in Christ

Colossians 2:6 (NASB)

Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,

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