

LESSON 5: COLOSSIANS 2:6–15

Discussion Questions

1. In verse 6, Paul says that believers are to “walk” (that is, live their lives) in the same way as they received Christ Jesus the Lord—that is, by faith. The idea here is not so much that believers are to live by faith instead of “by proof” or “by reason,” but rather that believers are to *continue* to live in Christ the same way that they received him, “by faith” instead of “by works.”
 - How does this affect the way you think about what it means to “live by faith”? • Why is it easier for us to “live by works” in our Christian lives?
2. In verse 6, Paul indicates the fundamental confession of faith that Christians make is that “Jesus is Lord” (see also Acts 2:36; Romans 10:9; Philippians 2:11). This differs than the way the gospel is preached in some Christian circles, where the emphasis is on “accepting Jesus as your savior” without any understanding that he is also Lord. But the gospel does not allow us to compartmentalize Jesus in this way.
 - How have you or do you find yourself “compartmentalizing” Jesus? • Where have you practically, past or present, lived under your own “lordship,” rather than Christ’s? • What draws you out of that and back to allegiance to Christ?
3. In verse 15, Paul says that God has “disarmed” the spiritual powers (“rulers and authorities”) in the world. It is possible that the “disarming” that Paul has in mind is how God divested them of their ability to rightly accuse Christians (see Revelation 12:10–11). The evil spiritual powers, led by Satan, no longer have any “legal ground” on which to accuse believers before God, because Jesus has paid the debt they owed to God (see Colossians 2:13–14).
 - What practical difference could it make in your life that Satan and his demons have been stripped of their ability to *accuse* you before God? • Where in your life do you struggle with an ongoing sense of guilt? How do the realities of Colossians 2:13–15 encourage you to think about that guilt?

TWO QUOTES FOR YOUR READING ENJOYMENT

“The design of this little treatise is to display the glory and all-sufficiency of the Lord Jesus Christ, and to encourage weak believers to glorify him more, by depending and living more upon his all-sufficiency. Whatever grace he has promised in his word, he is faithful, and he is almighty to bestow, and they may receive it of him freely by the hand of faith. This is its use and office, as a hand or instrument, having first received Christ, to be continually receiving out of Christ’s fullness. The apostle calls this ‘living by faith;’ a life received and continued, with all the strength, comforts, and blessings belonging to it, by faith in the Son of God.”

–William Romaine, *Works*, vol 1. p. v.

“When the believer so receives Christ and leans upon him, he not only considers him as a Savior, but also a Lord. For he receives a whole Christ, and receives him just as he is: but he is no less Lord than a Savior. In fact, he cannot be Savior, unless he also is a Lord.”

–Herman Witsius, *Economy of the Covenants*, III.7.xxiii (vol. 1, p. 347)