

# Christ Jesus The Lord

A Communion Message

Colossians 2:6

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**FOCAL Read Together** Colossians 2:6<sup>KJV</sup> **As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, [so] walk ye in him:**

The Scripture always teaches that the *inward* salvation wrought by faith in Jesus Christ always shows in the *outward* Christian walk or way of life. This is clearly expressed in our main text today. We read:

**As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord** – this reflects your faith. If you are saved you have **received Christ Jesus the Lord**. Yet this is not the whole of Christianity, for the text further states **so walk ye in Him**. The **as** is always followed by the **so**, one follows the other. If you have been saved, then you have been saved so as to serve Him. If **Christ Jesus the Lord** is the vehicle by which you have been saved, if you have **received Him as Christ Jesus the Lord**, then you are expected by God to **walk** through this life using that same vehicle.

When I was young the only mode of transportation my parents could afford to give me was a bicycle. I walked many a mile before I received that gift – and when they offered it to me, I **received** it with great joy. On that day I stopped walking everywhere and I began to ride. How foolish it would have been to receive that bike then continue walking everywhere I went. What purpose is there in receiving if you will not use it? I used that bicycle gratefully for many years, patching flat tires and fixing broken chains, until the day I received my first car from the dealership. On that day I left the bicycle behind

and began driving my car. The lesser was replaced by the greater, until I had what I thought was the greatest of all.

Before you received Christ Jesus the Lord you lived your life in the lesser. You walked from day to day on your own two feet. When trials came you struggled against them with all your might. You see, you were Lord of your own life, the Master of your own fate. If you couldn't do it in your own power then it didn't get done. There were times when you called on others to help you over the greatest of mountains – yet even they couldn't take you where you wanted to go. You struggled, you fought, you did it all in your own power, and were never satisfied, because you always fell far short of the goal.

Then you met **Christ Jesus the Lord**. You gave your life to Jesus Christ, receiving Him as your Lord. You showed the world you believed Him to be Lord by *submitting* to the ordinance of Water Baptism. Our context states:

**Colossians 2:12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with [him] through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.**

Water Baptism (and we will discuss this Sunday night) did not save you – but because you received **Christ Jesus the Lord** you did what He asked. Someone else is in charge of your life now, Someone higher, Someone greater than you or I. We no longer walk in our own power, but we **must walk in Him**.

## **1. The Lord's Table Emphasizes That You Have Received Christ Jesus the Lord**

**FOCAL** Colossians 2:6 As **ye have therefore received<sup>1</sup> Christ Jesus the Lord**, [so] walk ye in him:

The word **received** is the Greek , παραλαμβάνω, paralambanō, (pronounced *par-al-am-ban'-o*), which means *to take alongside of, to associate with in an intimate way*. This does not mean to receive on a mere doctrinal basis – it goes deeper than this. The first time we see this word used in the New Testament is when the angel of God comes to **a worried Joseph** and tells him:

**Matthew 1:20 ... Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.**

The words we translate **take unto thee** is the Greek word **paralambano**. Joseph was encouraged and commanded to *receive Mary as his wife*, to take her *trustfully and intimately* into his life. This is the sense of **paralambano** – if you have **received Him, taken Him to your heart in the most intimate and personal of ways**.

Salvation is not a mere *mental assent* to the Christ. It is

<sup>1</sup> Aorist Active Indicative of G3880, παραλαμβάνω, paralambanō, *par-al-am-ban'-o*, From G3844 and G2983; to *receive near*, that is, *associate with oneself* (in any familiar or intimate act or relation); by analogy to *assume* an office; figuratively to *learn*: - receive, take (unto, with).

not an intellectual exercise, nor a philosophy. This is why our context tells us:

**Colossians 2:8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.**

The world bases its belief systems on **philosophies**, on **traditions of men**, after **political correctness** (called here “**rudiments of the world**”). Christianity is not based on these things. Christianity is based on a *loving and obedient relationship between the Savior and the Saved*. If you are saved, you are *saved by love*.

**a. God loved you by sending and revealing Christ: ye have therefore received CHRIST Jesus the Lord.** God did not send an angel from Heaven to save you, but He Himself came and died for you. God the Father anointed God the Son – the Beloved One, the Anointed One – and He came because He loved you. Christ has said:

**Luke 4:18-19 The Spirit of the Lord [is] upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, (19) To**

**preach the acceptable year of the Lord.**

God could not Anoint any but Christ to save the souls of those whom He loves. When **John the Baptist**, the greatest Prophet who ever lived, was baptizing in the Jordan River, the people frequently asked him “**are you the Christ**” (Luke 3:15-16)? You see, they knew that salvation could only come to mankind when Christ came. **John baptized with water, but Christ baptizes with the Holy Spirit and with fire.** He is no mere man, but He is God's Anointed, the Only Chosen One, the Only Savior, the Christ. There is no other name under Heaven whereby a person may be saved.

Many people may call “Jesus the Christ”, but to merely call Him Christ means nothing at all. You must *intimately know Him as Christ*, as God's Anointed. The knowledge that He is the Christ is *implanted in the believer at the point of salvation*. Our Lord Jesus emphasized this when Peter told Him, “**Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God**” (Matthew 16:16). Jesus replied:

**Matthew 16:17 Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed [it] unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.**

You can hear me speak on Jesus day after day, but until the Father teaches you that **Jesus is the Christ** you are not saved. If you think there are *many ways to God* – all equally valid, then you are not saved. If you think that *human goodness*, or another *religion* may bring you into an intimate relationship with God, then you are not

saved. You were saved – not when the preacher spoke of Christ, but on the day that **God revealed that faith in Christ was your only hope for salvation.** Like Simeon (Luke 2:25-26) God the Holy Spirit revealed Jesus to you as **the Christ, the only Anointed of God.** This is an intimate, internal thing, a God revealed thing – and it is clearly revealed to *every born again CHRIST-ian* who has ever lived.

**b. God loved you by sending Jesus:** ye have **therefore received Christ JESUS the Lord.** There was only one Person Who God would anoint to come and die for you, and that was His **Only Begotten Son Jesus.** The name “**Jesus**” is the Greek form of the Hebrew name **Jehoshua,** which means **God our Savior and Deliverer.** When the Bible recognizes Jesus as **the Only Begotten or Firstborn Son** many people point to this and say, “See, He is not God – He is only a man. He is **begotten or born**”. That is not what is meant by the name **Jesus.** He is **God our Deliverer and Savior.** Jesus has always existed, has always been with God the Father and God the Spirit, but He *became Begotten* when He took on Himself human flesh. The Bible testifies that Jesus Christ was born of a Virgin – but this does not mean that He *came into existence at that birth.* Jesus said:

**John 6:38-40 For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. (39) And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at**

**the last day. (40) And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.**

Jesus did not come into existence at the Virgin birth – He *took humanity upon Himself* at the Virgin birth. He **came down from Heaven.** The Jews understood this distinction, for after Jesus said **I came down from Heaven** the Jews:

**John 6:41-42 ... murmured at him, because he said, I am the bread which came down from heaven. (42) And they said, Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? how is it then that he saith, I came down from heaven?**

You see, if Jesus *came into existence* at the point of the Virgin birth, then He could not **come down from Heaven.** Jesus did NOT come into existence on the night He was born in the flesh through the Virgin Mary. He Who exists from eternity **came down from Heaven** to be born of a Virgin so that He, the *second Adam,* could die in our place under the wrath of God.

Oh, holy wonder, that God would send His Son to die in our place. Oh, wondrous mystery, that the Father would dump all our sins on Him **who knew no sin (2**

**Corinthians 5:21**) so that we who believe could have His righteousness credited to our Heavenly account. Jesus said:

**John 6:51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever:** and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

**John 6:58 This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever.**

You will hear these words again during the Lord's Table. When you eat of this Bread you recognize that *Eternal God took on Himself humanity for you*. You recognize that *God the Son was willingly broken on the Cross in your place*.

Yet, dear ones, your salvation came not by just receiving Christ, nor by receiving Jesus, but:

**c. You received Christ Jesus THE LORD:**

**FOCAL** Colossians 2:6 As ye have therefore received **Christ Jesus THE LORD**, [so] walk ye in him:

It was not just a Man Who died for you – **this is the Lord**. Almighty God died for you on that Cross.

Almighty God took your place under the fire of righteous wrath. He is Lord! **C.H. Spurgeon** stated:

**If the convert declares that he knows the Lord's will but doesn't mean to attend to it, it is your duty to assure Him that He is not saved. Don't imagine that the Gospel is magnified, or God glorified, by going to worldlings and telling them that they may be saved at this moment by accepting Christ as their Savior, while they are wedded to their idols with the hearts, and their hearts are still in love with sin. If I do so, I tell them a lie, I pervert the Gospel, I insult Christ, I turn the Grace of God into lasciviousness.”<sup>2</sup>**

This is a *package deal, dear friends*. As you have received **Christ Jesus the Lord**. This is the Gospel of God, plain and simple. Read how Christ was preached in the early Church. In the *very first sermon preached after Pentecost* we hear **Peter** say:

**Acts 2:21 And it shall come to pass, [that] whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.**

When **Peter acknowledged Gentile salvation** before the Church at Jerusalem said:

**Acts 15:11 But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they.**

<sup>2</sup> Quoted from *The Incredible Power of Kingdom Authority* by Adrian Rogers, page 108

When the **Philippian Jailer** asked **Paul and Silas** “**what must I do to be saved?**”, they answered:

**Acts 16:31 ... Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved,** and thy house.

and Paul preached to the Romans:

**Romans 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus,** and shalt believe in thine heart that **God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.**

I fear the dumbing down of the Gospel of salvation that we see in this day and age. I fear this because its image is not as God made it. A counterfeit bill, if made by a master artist, may look exactly like a real dollar bill. It may fool all those who handle it. Yet the counterfeit bill, if examined by the master who makes the *real dollar bill*, will quickly be seen as a fraud. Why? Because the counterfeit was not made by the True Authority, not made under the Legal Authority of those authorized to make it. Such a bill is only fit to be burned.

So it is with Christ.

If you were saved, you were saved by **receiving Christ Jesus the Lord**. God revealed Him to you as **Christ**, the only Way to God (**John 14:6**). You realized the suffering that He did on your behalf as **Jesus**, realized that He:

**Isaiah 53:4-5 ... hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. (5) But he [was] wounded for our transgressions, [he was] bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace [was] upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.**

And we who believe *surely received Him as Lord*. As **Ray Pritchard** of *Keep on Believing Ministries* writes<sup>3</sup>:

**“In one of his books Watchman Nee said that we approach God like little children with open hands, begging for gifts. Because he is a good God, he fills our hands with good things—life, health, friends, money, success, recognition, challenge, marriage, children, a nice home, a good job, all the things that we count at Thanksgiving when we count our blessings. And so like children, we rejoice in what we have received and run around comparing what we have with each other. When our hands are finally full, God says, “My child, I long to have fellowship with you. Reach out your hand and take my hand. But we can’t do it because our hands are full. “God, we can’t,” we cry. “Put those things aside and take my hand,” he replied. “No, we can’t. It’s too hard to put them down.” “But I am the one who gave them to you in the first place.” “O God, what you have**

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<sup>3</sup> From his sermon, *The Ultimate Test* on Genesis 22

asked for is too hard. Please don't ask us to put these things aside." And God answers quietly, "You must."

## 2. The Lord's Table Is A Reminder That We Are To Walk In Him

**FOCAL** Colossians 2:6 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, **[so] walk<sup>4</sup> ye in him:**

The Lord's Table we will enjoy today is a reminder that we – together as believers – are to **walk in Him**. The verb **walk** in our focal text is **Present Tense, Active Voice, Imperative Mood**. What this means in English is that this is a *command to keep on walking in Him*. This is not only a command, but it is *the normal Christian life*.

The Christian who will not *consistently* walk with his Savior is like the sheep without his Shepherd. How dangerous it is to be a Christian living without Christ! There are many things we can do without. We can do without *hatred* and *strife*. These things are like poison. As a wise person once said, "To carry a grudge is like trying to kill rats by eating the poison yourself". We can do without grudges, without vengeance, without bitterness. But we cannot do without Christ, without walking with Him and in Him.

The Bible tells us of a mysterious man named **Enoch**. All that we know of Enoch is written in two verses of Scripture:

4 Present Active Imperative of G4043, περιπατέω, peripateō, *per-ee-pat-eh'-o*. From G4012 and G3961; to *tread all around*, that is, *walk* at large (especially as proof of ability); figuratively to *live, deport oneself, follow* (as a companion or votary): - go, be occupied with, walk (about).

Genesis 5:23-24 And **all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years: (24) And Enoch walked with God: and he [was] not; for God took him.**

There are *three hundred and sixty five* days in a year. Each year of Enoch's life was like a day, for he **walked with God**. I am sure that Enoch had high days and low days in his life, but even on the lowest of days he **walked with God**. This continued, year after year until, one day – *after a year of years* – the **Lord took him**. I doubt that Enoch even noticed the transition.

If we would keep on walking with **Christ Jesus the Lord** as the Scripture commands, every day would be filled with abundant life and joy. We as believers lose our joy, the *joy of our salvation*, when we fail to walk in Him.

Have you pride or self righteousness? Cast this away, for it does not belong in the pocket of the companion of Christ. Who are you or I to be arrogant or condescending in the presence of our brothers and sisters. We were saved the day that we **received Christ Jesus the Lord**.

Ephesians 2:8-9 For **by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: [it is] the gift of God: (9) Not of works, lest any man should boast.**

We are commanded to *keep on walking* with Him. I will not look to my neighbor, but I will look to myself – and look at Him. **I will cast off all works of sin.** My Holy Companion does not like when I put a leash on that dog called Sin and bring it along on our walks. Sin, like a leashed and untrained dog, will wrap itself around my legs and cause me to fall. I will **keep on walking with Him.** Away with all known sin! I will confess this to **Christ Jesus the Lord (1 John 1:9)** and forsake it, blessed be the Name of God.

Before I come to the Table of the Lord I will wash my hands – by faith – in the stream of His Grace. Then I will leave this Table refreshed, walking with Him as I go out into this world.

We live in *desperate times* where children are killed by crazy people and by *their own mothers while in the womb.* We who believe *must* be the Light of Christ to this generation – or the next generation may not survive! As a matter of fact, **we ourselves may not survive** if we do not keep on walking in Him. **A.W. Tozer<sup>5</sup>:** stated:

**“We may as well face it: the whole level of spirituality among us is low. We have measured ourselves by ourselves until the incentive to seek higher plateaus in the things of the Spirit is all but gone. Large and influential sections of the world of fundamental Christianity have gone overboard for practices wholly unscriptural, altogether unjustifiable in the light of historic Christian truth and deeply damaging to the inner life of the individual Christian. They have**

**imitated the world, sought popular favor, manufactured delights to substitute for the joy of the Lord and produced a cheap and synthetic power to substitute for the power of the Holy Ghost. The glowworm has taken the place of the bush that burned and scintillating personalities now answer to the fire that fell at Pentecost. ... We must insist on New Testament sainthood for our converts, nothing less; and we must lead them into a state of heart purity, fiery love, separation from the world and poured-out devotion to the Person of Christ. Only in this way can the low level of spirituality be raised again to where it should be in the light of the Scriptures and of eternal values.”**

The **Christian walking in Christ Jesus the Lord** will have an impact on his world. We who believe are called to be **light and salt (Matthew 5:13-14).** Oh, how America needs light and salt! I beg you, dear Ones, keep on walking in Christ Jesus the Lord. Keep on praying, keep on studying His Word, keep on living in love as He did and does, keep on being a world changer for the glory of God.

May God touch your hearts with these words.

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5 Excerpt from *Of God and Men*