

The Supremacy of Christ in the Gospel Colossians 2:6-7

The Point: After receiving the gospel, we must live a life consistent with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

I. The gospel must be received (2:6).

a. This message must be received or rejected

- The word receive here means “to take as your own.” What are we taking as our own?
- Core Truths of the Gospel.
 - God the Righteous Creator
 - Man the Sinner
 - Jesus Christ the Savior
 - Response—Faith and Repentance.

b. Why are people confused about who is a Christian?

- Imposters. Posers. (Some of these are from Michael McKinley)
 1. A person is not a Christian just because they say they are.
 2. A person is not a Christian just because they go to church.
 3. A person is not a Christian just because their family believes in God.
 4. A person is not a Christian just because they believe in God.
 5. A person is not a Christian because they are a moral person.
- So who is a Christian? A Christian is a disciple of Christ. The words are synonymous.
- “A disciple of Jesus is one who has heard the call of Jesus and has responded by repenting, believing the gospel, and following Jesus.” –Stephen Smallman
- A person is a Christian if they embrace the next phrase in our text: “Christ Jesus as Lord.”

II. The gospel announces Jesus as Lord (2:6).

- “Lord” = The greek literally reads “the Christ Jesus the Lord.” (cf. Romans 10:9-10)
- **Story:** I had a friend a while back tell me: “Tanner, I need some Jesus in my life.” What I need to tell him is that you don’t need some Jesus in your life. Jesus needs to become your life. It’s all or nothing.
- This is why Jesus says in **Luke 9:23-24**: **“If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.”**
- Nothing in a Christian’s life is off the table when it comes to the Lordship of Christ. Think about your life. Your time. His. Your friendships. His. Your words. His. Your ambitions. His. Your hobbies. His. Your marriage. His. Your Paper. His.

III. The gospel must be lived (2:6).

- Receiving Christ is not the end but the beginning of life... (not the finish line, the starting line); not just getting the gift of heaven/eternal life, but the gift of God himself
- Do you find it interesting that Paul encourages the very thing he prayed for (cf. 1:9-10)? Let’s learn this lesson from Paul: Our prayer life does not, in any way, negate the need for us to act. Our prayer life should actually motivate action toward the very things we are praying about.

Trans: Now what is the point of verse 6? It’s this:

- **“All growth and progress in the Christian life must be entirely consistent with its beginnings”**
– Dick Lucas

- In other words, we must live out our faith the same way we came to faith. Grace. Through Faith. We are dependent on grace from beginning to end.
- **“For the grace of God has appeared, *bringing* salvation for all people, *training* us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age” (Titus 2:11-12)**

IV. The gospel produces transformation (2:7)

- There is a natural progression of course. Rooted in Christ and then we grow in Christ. The NASB captures this: “having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him.”
- The gospel is the foundation of our spiritual lives. I love what Jerry Bridges says in his book, *The Discipline of Grace*: **“Your worst days are never so bad that you are beyond the reach of God’s grace. And your best days are never so good that you are beyond the need of God’s grace.” We are in constant need of grace. The gospel of grace is our foundation, but...**
- The gospel is also the motivation for our spiritual lives. I believe there are two primary motivations for keeping the commands of God. One is guilt. The other is the gospel.
- **Guilt Motivated Obedience vs. Gospel-Motivated Obedience**
 - This is what **I am supposed to do**. vs. This is what **I get to do!**
 - I am going to do this so that **God will love me**. vs. I am going to do this because **God loves me!**
 - One says, **“This is my duty.”** The other says, **“This is my delight!”**
 - Gospel-motivated obedience vs. guilt motivated obedience is the difference between religion and the gospel: Religion says, **“I obey; therefore, I’m accepted.”** The gospel says, **“I’m accepted; therefore, I obey.”**
 - What motivates our love? Ex. “We love (both God and man) because he first loved us.” (1 John 4:19)
 - What motivates our marriages? Ex. Faithfulness to my spouse, because Christ has been so faithful to me!
 - What motivates our giving? “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.” (2 Cor. 8:9)

V. The gospel produces gratitude (2:7)

- “Abounding” – Picture: Overflowing – Getting a fountain drink and get in a conversation... pours over...
- Thanksgiving recognizes the goodness of God. Thanksgiving recognizes that God has provided. Thanksgiving recognizes that all this is from God and rejoices in it.
- What do you have to thank God for? EV-ree-Thing!

Conclusion (Response):

What are some barriers to receiving the gospel?

- 1. God will not accept me as I am. I need to clean my life up. (moral barrier)
- 2. Intellectual Barrier (Doubting major core beliefs & major questions)
- 3. It doesn’t look that appealing. (Xns are hypocrites; churches are a joke)
- 4. It doesn’t look as appealing as this. (and you fill in the blank)
- 5. The cost is too great.

Receive. Respond. Rejoice.

Acknowledge you can’t do it on your own. Pray and ask God to do it in you. Trust in his promises. Act in the strength he supplies. Thank God for his provision.