

## WALK IN HIM

Message by Jennifer Lieberum  
Christian Centre Abbotsford



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### Introduction

Book of Colossians. Big messages the last 3 weeks:

- Keith du Plessis: great job in setting the scene & giving backdrop. My big takeaway was how we need to ENGAGE with the world, not withdraw or dominate but be salt and light IN the world.
- Gavin gave us a practical application of the gospel in the story of Onesimus, a runaway slave who encountered Jesus through Paul and now returned to his Master Philemon, in who's house the church at Colosse met.
- Last week, Roy shared about Christ in us and a life of faith in God.

### Today's Scriptures: Colossians 2:1-15

Prepared message from these Scriptures, and hopefully we will get there, but I feel very strongly prompted by God to start by sharing from the heart on an aspect of today's message. I feel God wants you to experience Him, and to know His love.

- We were made for communion (with God)
- Christ in you – question: Do Christians believe this?
- Jeanne Guyon book: Experiencing the depths of Jesus Christ. Simple way of experiencing a deep, inward relationship to Jesus Christ. Written in 17<sup>th</sup> century, influenced many famous Christians like Watchman Nee, John Wesley and Hudson Taylor.

The focus is **recognising Christ within and turning and yielding your heart to Him**. It is the expression of love within your heart for Him. It is about forsaking sin and selfishness to seek Him in your own heart. Its about abandoning your own will and desires to seek and love Him.

- Testimony of Michael Koulianos from Jesus Image church. Own journey crisis of faith, purpose of God found himself with a group of nuns, who answered all his questions with the same answer:

**"Find the love of Jesus and love Him back."**

- 2023 discipleship journey: life of a disciple of Jesus
  - To be with Jesus
  - To become like Him
  - To do what Jesus did

It all starts with "being with Jesus" – everything else follows that, and its not step 1, then 2 then 3. Step 1 is the foundation that is built upon. You don't leave it then move on to the next steps.

**Being with Jesus.** We learned about the spiritual practices like prayer and rest, that help you position yourself to "be with Him" on a daily basis. One of the key things for me is to learn to SLOW DOWN and BE STILL, to LISTEN and LEARN from Him.

I feel God wants us to EXPERIENCE and know Him. To get out of our heads, become childlike in our faith and seek Him with all our HEARTS! (Hunger and thirst after Him)

### Colossians 2:1-15 NKJV

<sup>1</sup>For I want you to know what a great conflict I have for you and those in Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh, <sup>2</sup>that their **hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ, <sup>3</sup>in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.**

<sup>4</sup>Now this I say lest anyone should deceive you with persuasive words. <sup>5</sup>For though I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.

<sup>6</sup>As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, **so walk in Him, <sup>7</sup>rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.**

<sup>8</sup>Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and **not according to Christ.** <sup>9</sup>For **in Him** dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; <sup>10</sup>and you are **complete in Him**, who is the **head** of all principality and power.

<sup>11</sup>In Him you were also **circumcised** with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, <sup>12</sup>buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

<sup>13</sup>And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has **made alive** together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, <sup>14</sup>having **wiped out** the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has **taken it out of the way**, having **nailed it to the cross.**

<sup>15</sup>Having **disarmed principalities and powers**, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it. (the cross)

**BACKGROUND:** Paul in prison in Rome, writing to the church in Colosse (with Timothy), to encourage them in their faith and keep them walking in the truth of the gospel, amid the threat of false teachings, from Jews and Greeks – traditions, philosophies and worldly standards.

### V1-3

<sup>1</sup>For I want you to know what a great conflict I have for you and those in Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh, <sup>2</sup>that their **hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ, <sup>3</sup>in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.**

Paul and Timothy are praying for them (see chapter 1). Even here, he is contending for them in prayer – see v2. This is the goal that he is looking for in them.

Hearts encouraged, knit together in love (agape: an unselfish love, a love does things for the benefit of another and is concerned for the best of another) – that's COMMUNITY

Riches of the full assurance (entire confidence) of understanding (a mental putting together) to the knowledge (recognition and full discernment) of the mystery (secret) of God, both of the Father and of Christ (the Messiah), in whom are hidden all the treasures (wealth) of wisdom and knowledge. – that's KNOWING GOD, INTIMATELY

He's wanting them to be in loving relationships with ONE ANOTHER **AND** WITH GOD, the Father and Christ, because that's our source of life and help, our strength, everything we need in life is IN HIM.

#### **V4-5**

*<sup>4</sup>Now this I say lest anyone should **deceive you with persuasive words**. <sup>5</sup>For though I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.*

Here he is referring to the influences around them and warning them against deception and persuasive words. The antidote is to be deeply rooted in Jesus and walking IN HIM.

#### **V6-10**

*<sup>6</sup>As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, **so walk in Him**, <sup>7</sup>**rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith**, as you have been taught, **abounding in it with thanksgiving**.*

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Example: Jeremy

Rooted in Him, established in the faith – clear understanding of the gospel and has worked it out in his life (not perfect, but growing in Christ). Now in CT, has come across traditional mindsets and extremely worldly culture. Confident that he can stand in that environment, why? For years he has been discipled by Deon, he has meditated, studied and applied the gospel. He has worked it out in a community of young adult followers of Jesus and his family is standing with him supporting him. Although he is 1000km away, he is in touch with a network of believers, a strong, connected family. And La Ron and Trayle & Leona are also not too far away. I have no doubt that he will make a difference there.

#### **A. To walk in Him, we need to understand His power and presence in us.**

**In chapter 1**, (what Roy shared with us last week) Paul encouraged the Colossian believers about the mystery that has been revealed:

#### **Colossians 1:27**

*To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory**.*

#### **Galatians 2:20 NKJV**

*I have been crucified with Christ; **it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me**; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*

The living God is alive in us. His presence in us causes us to have Hope (to positively anticipate) of Glory (the purpose, presence, power and virtue of the Holy Spirit).

Because the God of the universe lives in us! we can anticipate His power and presence to manifest in our lives.

Story: I remember when we were teaching foundations course, one of the young ladies came to my house one day and asked me, mind-blown, do Christians REALLY BELIEVE THIS? Honestly, it made me consider it more fully. The gifts of God, His presence, signs and wonders ought to be flowing from our lives. The supernatural should be commonplace in our communities.

This realisation [CHRIST IN ME] totally transformed my life! It created the AWARENESS of Christ in me. Although He exists in the Universe and beyond, He also chooses to live in us. We walk in Him through His power and presence in us.

We have been crucified with Christ.

**B. To walk in Him, we must understand the work of the cross in our lives - what Jesus has done for us. [THE GOSPEL]**

**We are recipients of the grace and victory of Christ. We can walk in ABSOLUTE FREEDOM, from sin, guilt, shame, low self esteem, depression, addiction... anything that would try to oppress us.**

*<sup>11</sup>In Him you were also **circumcised** with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, <sup>12</sup>buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.*

*<sup>13</sup>And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has **made alive** together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, <sup>14</sup>having **wiped out** the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has **taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.***

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Circumcision was the cutting away of the foreskin of the flesh in Jewish male babies at 8 days old. It was a requirement and sign of God's covenant with His people. In the NT, after Jesus came, died and was resurrected, circumcision is now a spiritual act Jesus performs on our hearts at salvation. He has separated us from the world and sin nature and unto God. We have been cut by God. The umbilical cord to the world and sin nature has been cut and we can receive the blessings of the promises of God, of life and peace, of His presence, of love and joy, gentleness and self control, all the fruits of the Spirit who now indwells us.

Jesus did it for us on the cross! We have been crucified with Christ. CUT - Separated from sin and the world. He has done it! And by the power of the Holy Spirit, Christ in us, we live it out, walk it out. You must KNOW THE TRUTH and ACCEPT IT though. EMBRACE what Jesus has done. Its not by our own works. No matter how good you are, you can do NOTHING to earn this! Nothing! We are hopeless and helpless without Christ!

BUT IN HIM, we are COMPLETE! PERFECT! We can stand before the Father perfect, because its not in our own righteousness, its in His! He has made us holy and righteous and perfect before Him. (holy, blameless and above reproach Col 1:22)

**He has met the standard!** Then, with all the pressure to perform off us, we learn about Him and grow in Him and start to change and transform to look and be more like Him. He's already done it (in the spirit), then we grow into it in the natural too. This is the process of God in our lives, the life of being a disciple of Jesus.

### **WALK IN HIM: So how do we do this?**

1. Recognise what JESUS HAS DONE – study the gospel, meditating on its deep truths and implications
2. Allow God to do His surgery on you. Our part is to SURRENDER. That is not an easy thing, not comfortable (life on the slab), but its beautiful. Our lives are not our own! Unless you lose your life...

<sup>24</sup>Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone desires to be My disciple, let him **deny himself** [disregard, lose sight of, and forget himself and his own interests] and **take up his cross and follow Me** [cleave steadfastly to Me, conform wholly to My example in living and, if need be, in dying, also].

<sup>25</sup>For **whoever is bent on saving his** [temporal] **life** [his comfort and security here] **shall lose it** [eternal life]; **and whoever loses his life** [his comfort and security here] **for My sake shall find it** [life everlasting]. Matt 16:24-25 AMPC

MY STORY: Ireland. challenge to uproot, being a huge blessing and freedom. Sometimes we hold so tightly onto things we think we need to be happy and secure, but there is freedom in letting go and blessing in sacrifice. Its not really a sacrifice in Christ, because you get so much more that money can't buy – you get HIM!

Declutter. Healing. Pruning. Result -> Presence and Fruit

Letting go of attachments. Rely only on Him for your happiness and security (rich young ruler).

3. Understand it's a JOURNEY of growing in Christ. It's a lifelong journey of knowing Him and growing in Him. A beautiful love relationship with Jesus. its all about being WITH HIM, learning FROM HIM, becoming LIKE HIM and DOING WHAT HE DID. And we do this with ONE ANOTHER. We can't grow in Him on our own, its impossible! He designed it that way.
4. Know the HE LIVES IN YOU! Wow! Mind blowing reality. Train yourself to be aware of this truth. Whenever you feel scared or lonely or down, or even just as you go through your day, consider and know that He is in you. You can't have a more intimate relationship than being ONE with someone. That's why marriage is a picture of the relationship of Christ and the church. We are one.

## Practical challenge:

*<sup>6</sup>As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, **so walk in Him,** <sup>7</sup>**rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith,** as you have been taught, **abounding in it with thanksgiving.***

This little phrase that is so critically important: "as you have been taught" – that's DISCIPLESHIP

### 1. Find a disciple

If you consider yourself rooted in Him and established in the faith – **find someone to walk with** (either one on one or in a small group) and share your life with them. Teach them what you know about Jesus. Make your life available to them. Ask Holy Spirit to show you. He will lead you every step of the way. It's Jesus' way. It's how He shared the truths of the kingdom and what He told His followers to do. We are to follow (obey) Him.

You don't have to have a degree in Theology or be an extrovert – (Example of Deon and me).

My discipleship story: how I do it

Start with relationship – love and care. Build trust that way. Pray for them. Stay centred on Jesus and the gospel. You can go through a book of the Bible together, or do a reading plan together, but make it real. Open the door through being open and honest about your own life. None of us are perfect or without challenges; we are all growing to be more like Jesus. He will bring people to you who need what you have. You will be amazed at how much we have in common. (Example: Soba & I)

When I started, I felt so awkward, and sometimes it was awkward. But you just need to break the ice. It gets easier.

If you don't know who, speak to one of us (Young adults and youth are hungry for God and need discipleship).

### 2. Join a community group

Another avenue is to join a community group. You will find people to walk with there or people who can walk with and help you. It's usually a two-way street.

The Training and Equipping Team will be working on resources to help us with discipleship, but you really can just get started.

## Closing prayer:

Prayer for salvation and fullness of the Holy Spirit (if feel a blockage, etc.)

- Those who have been attending church for years, but don't have a living relationship with Jesus/ Holy Spirit. Surrender, repent, believe & confess.
- Holding on/attached to stuff/people. Open hands and hearts, surrender it to Jesus.
- Holy Spirit