

LIVE STRONG . . . FOCUS ON JESUS

Colossians 2:6-10

- **Today is TEAM DAY at Celebration, where we're encouraging people to get involved in serving the Lord and people through our Church's ministries.**
- *"God has given each of you a gift from His great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another."* (1 Peter 4:10)
- ***What problems or "problem people" have kept me from experiencing Jesus' peace, power and promises in my life?***
- **One reason Paul wrote this letter was because false teachers had come to Colossae trying to dissuade Christians from the "truths of God."**
- **The best way to counter the "false" is to be completely grounded in the truth – which is why it's important to read the Bible daily, and learn more about God's Word weekly in *Life Groups* and worship services.**
- Paul - *"And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow Him. Let your roots grow down into Him, and let your lives be built on Him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness."* (Colossians 2:6-7)
- **"Living strong" as Christians requires building our lives on Jesus Christ.**
- ***What are some steps we can take to build our lives on Jesus Christ?***

Living A Successful Christian Life Requires:

BEGINNING A RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST JESUS

- Paul - *"And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow Him."* (Colossians 2:6)
- **Christianity is not about a set of beliefs or attending Church services; it is being in a relationship with Jesus (John 1:12-13), so there must be a definite time when we make Jesus our Savior and Lord.**
- *"There was a man named Nicodemus, a Jewish religious leader who was a Pharisee. After dark one evening, he came to speak with Jesus. 'Rabbi,' he said,*

'we all know that God has sent You to teach us. Your miraculous signs are evidence that God is with You.' Jesus replied, 'I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God.'" (John 3:1-3)

- **When we become a real follower of Jesus we're born again; and at that time God's Spirit comes into our lives, our sins are forgiven, we are welcomed into God's family and given eternal life (John 1:12 3:16; Acts 2:38).**
- ***At what time in my life was I "born again," and how did I know that the presence of the Lord came into my life?***

Living A Successful Christian Life Requires:

CONTINUING OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST JESUS

- *"Just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow Him."* (Colossians 2:6)
- **Many Christians have received Jesus as their Savior but they're no longer following or obeying Him - they're "Jesus Fans" but not "Jesus Followers."**
- **When we stay close to the Lord, it is far more difficult for the Devil to tempt and trap us with his "substitutes."**
- *"Loving God means keeping His commandments, and really, that isn't difficult. For every child of God defeats this evil world by trusting Christ to give the victory."* (1 John 5:3-4)
- **Successfully living the Christian life requires living an obedient life.**
- Jesus - *"Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse because it is built on bedrock."* (Matthew 7:24-25)
- Jesus – *"You are truly My disciples if you keep obeying My teachings."* (John 8:31)
- **We must live the Christian life the same way we began it - through faith, repentance, surrender and obedience.**

Living A Successful Christian Life Requires:

DEEPENING OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST JESUS

- *"Let your roots grow down into Him and draw up nourishment from Him, so you will grow in faith, strong and vigorous in the truth you were taught."* (Colossians 2:7)
- **If we don't continue to deepen our relationship with the Lord we will be overwhelmed by temptations, trials and false teachings, and will begin going backwards in our lives.**
- Jesus - *"A branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in Me. Yes, I am the vine; you are the*

branches. Those who remain in Me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from Me you can do nothing." (John 15:4-5)

- **To deepen our relationship with Jesus we need to: 1) daily interact with Him (Matthew 6:6), 2) weekly connect with other Believers (Hebrews 10:24-25), 3) pursue spiritual growth opportunities (2 Peter 3:18) and 4) be involved in serving Him and others (Romans 12:11).**
- **People have many opportunities for growth at Celebration through our *Life Groups,* Midweek *Discipleship Studies,* conferences, etc.**
- **When we are growing in the Lord we will live a: 1) faithful life (2 Timothy 4:7), 2) fruitful life (John 15:5), 3) purposeful life (Acts 13:36), 4) powerful life (Romans 8:37), and 5) thankful life (Colossians 2:7).**
- ***What kind of life do I want to live, and am I willing to pursue the spiritual growth and obedience required to experience that type of life?"***

- *"For in Christ the fullness of God lives in a human body, and you are complete through your union with Christ. He is the Lord over every ruler and authority in the universe."* (Colossians 2:9-10)
- **Christians are who we are, have what we have and are able to do what we do because of Jesus' presence and power in our lives.**
- *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."* (Philippians 4:13 NKJV)
- **Jesus and His teachings are sufficient for our lives – and we don't need to believe in or adhere to any other teachings.**
- **Since Jesus is the Lord over everything and everyone, He needs and deserves to be the absolute LORD over every aspect of our lives.**
- ***What is the Lord primarily communicating to me through this message?***