

Rooted and Built Up; Colossians 2:6-7

I. Rooted

- A. “Walking” is living
 - 1. Live in Christ
 - 2. Make His priorities your priorities
 - 3. Make His thoughts your thoughts
 - 4. Imitate Him
- B. As we received Christ (through the Gospel) it is our desire to live in Him (through the Gospel)
- C. “Salvation is not a product believers possess but a person who possesses them!” ¹
- D. “Firmly fixed, be/become firmly rooted/fixed” ²
- E. Jeremiah 17:7–8 (ESV); ⁷ “Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. ⁸ He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit.”
- F. “Tree roots anchor the tree in the soil, keeping it straight and stable, and absorb water from the soil. Tree roots also take nutrients and chemicals out of the soil and use them to produce what they need for the tree’s growth, development, and repair.” ³

II. Straight and Stable

- A. We are kept straight and stable through Christ
- B. When we allow other philosophies to be our guiding principle we lose our ability to see Jesus
- C. Colossians 2:8–9 (ESV); ⁸ See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹ For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,
- D. In order to keep stable our roots must dig deep down into the ground (God’s word) to anchor us to the truth
- E. It is interesting to note that in times of drought (wilderness) the tree’s roots extend deeper into the soil in search of nutrients — this enables the tree to survive in all kinds of severe weather
- F. How deep are your roots?

III. Fed

- A. We are fed through Christ
- B. John 4:14 (ESV); but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”
- C. John 6:35 (ESV); Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.
- D. Just as a tree’s roots deliver sustenance to the tree so Jesus delivers sustenance to our souls
- E. We find our soul’s nutrients in the word of God
- F. Without it, we dry up, we slowly give into our surroundings and die
- G. Only Christ can give us what our souls long for — salvation
- H. And we find that in Him (through the Gospel)

¹ Robert James Utley, Paul Bound, the Gospel Unbound: Letters from Prison (Colossians, Ephesians and Philemon, Then Later, Philippians), vol. Volume 8, Study Guide Commentary Series (Marshall, TX: Bible Lessons International, 1997), 30.

² William Arndt et al., A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 906.

³ “Understanding Tree Roots.” Fairfax County, Virginia. N.p., n.d. Web. 25 Oct. 2017.

- I. Where are you getting your sustenance?
- IV. Growth
 - A. We receive our growth through Christ
 - B. Knowledge is Power
 - 1. Professional knowledge is a given — it is something that we must have in order to achieve any measure of success in our chosen profession
 - 2. Because biblical knowledge does not translate into ‘success’ for us we don’t put a priority on it
 - a) I can get it every week from the preacher
 - b) If I need it, I know where to find it (the Bible)
 - 3. Stagnation is a real thing, both professionally and spiritually
 - C. “Built up” — The illustration changes from agriculture to construction
 - D. The foundation we build on is extremely important
 - 1. Ephesians 2:19–22 (ESV); ¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, ²¹ in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²² In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.
 - 2. If the cornerstone is off, then the foundation is off
 - 3. If the foundation is off, then we are built on something that is faulty, wrong, false
 - 4. 2 Peter 3:17–18 (ESV); ¹⁷ You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. ¹⁸ But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.
 - E. Growth begins at the cornerstone, proceeds to the foundation (the Gospel) and continues in us (through the Gospel)
 - F. Growth ‘establishes’ us
 - 1. Beyond doubt, to make a person firm in commitment, strengthen ⁴
 - 2. Another understanding is ‘settled’
 - 3. “Do your diligence therefore that ye be confirmed in the ordinances of the Lord and of the Apostles, that ye may prosper in all things whatsoever ye do in flesh and spirit, by faith and by love” ⁵
 - G. Are you growing in Christ?
- V. Rooted and Built Up
 - A. Our roots must run deep to keep us straight and stable
 - B. Our roots (in the Gospel) feed us in the ways of righteousness
 - C. Our roots cause growth, which establishes us in the faith
 - D. What do your roots look like?

⁴ William Arndt et al., *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 173.

⁵ Joseph Barber Lightfoot and J. R. Harmer, *The Apostolic Fathers* (London: Macmillan and Co., 1891), 145–146.