

Col.2:6 As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,
2:7 rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught,
abounding in it with thanksgiving.

2:8 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.

2:9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;

2:10 and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

2:11 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,

2:12 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.

【From Today's Sermon】

The phrase “in Christ” appears six times in today's passage. Walk in him (verse 6), be rooted and built up in him (verse 7), for in Christ all the fullness of God dwells bodily (verse 9), be filled with Him (verse 10), be circumcised in Him with a circumcision made without hands, that is, in the circumcision of Christ (verse 11), baptized into Him and buried with Him, and raised with Him through faith in the power of God who raised Him from the dead (verse 12). And terms like “fullness,” “filled,” “dominion and authority,” and ‘power’ are repeated throughout.

On the other hand, it also points to ways of living that do not rely on Christ, such as “taking care not to be led captive by the empty deceit of philosophy, which is based on human tradition, not on obedience to Christ, but on the elemental spirits of the world” and “circumcision not done by human hands.”

As verse 12 states, “You were baptized into death with him and raised with him through your faith in the power of God who raised him from the dead,” so let us earnestly seek to live taught by Jesus, God incarnate.

(Matthew 11:28-30)

Good morning, everyone.

With today included, only three days remain in September. October begins this Wednesday. Mornings and evenings have grown quite chilly. Though it was so hot until recently, I find myself considering preparing the heating. Only three months left this year. While I wonder what kind of winter it will be, I pray that as summer fatigue sets in and your bodies adjust to

the cold, you will take good care of yourselves and avoid overexertion.

Now, as we continue reading Colossians, it's often said that "Christianity is Christ." What does that mean? I believe the following passage from Scripture expresses it well.

Philippians 3:8 For I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For Christ's sake I have lost all things, and I consider them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ,

3:9 and be found in him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God by faith.

3:10 That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

3:11 if by any means I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

3:12 Not that I have already obtained it, or am already perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.

3:13 Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself to have taken hold of it yet. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead,

3:14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 6:14 But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

6:15 For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is a new creation.

6:16 Peace and mercy be upon all who walk by this rule, and upon the Israel of God.

Galatians 2:19 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

2:20 It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

2:21 I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing.

And today's Scripture passage also states:

2:9 For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity dwells in bodily form,
2:10 and you have been filled in him, who is the head over every power and authority.

And this passage is rendered as follows in another Bible translation:

(New Common Translation) 2:9 For in Christ all the fullness of the divine nature dwells bodily,
2:10 and you have been filled in him, who is the head over every power and authority.

Christianity says it is Christ, but the following words of Jesus in the Gospel of John are also very important.

14:5 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going. How can we know the way?"

14:6 Jesus replied, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

14:7 If you had known me, you would have known my Father too. But now you know him and have seen him."

14:8 Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us."

14:9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

14:10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I speak to you I do not speak on my own. The Father who dwells in me does his works.

14:11 Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. If you cannot believe that, believe because of the works themselves.

14:12 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.

14:13 Whatever you ask in my name, I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

14:14 And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

14:15 If you love me, keep my commands.

14:16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you forever—

14:17 This is the Spirit of truth. The world cannot receive him because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

14:18 I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

"Whoever has seen me has seen the Father." What does this mean?

Jesus said, "The words I speak to you I do not speak on my own. The Father who dwells in me

does his works. Believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. If you cannot believe that, believe because of the works themselves."

Sent in this way, Jesus deeply sought the will of God the Father, prayed earnestly, and received strength. Even so, Jesus said, "I do not speak on my own. The Father is in me, doing His works." This is the very essence of Jesus' devotion.

Mark 14:33 He took Peter, James, and John with Him, and began to be deeply distressed and troubled.

14:34 He said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch."

14:35 He went a little farther and fell on his face and prayed, saying,

14:36 "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Take this cup from me; yet not what I will, but what you will."

14:37 Then he came and found them asleep, and said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour?

14:38 Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

There is a voice interceding for us in our weakness. It is the Holy Spirit.

Romans 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helps our weak spirit. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings too deep for words.

8:27 And he who searches the hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

Thus, as in Galatians 2:20, we are kept in the protection that says, "It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." Our prayers are also heard,

We are led to the state where we can say, "It is no longer I who speak, but the Father (Christ) who dwells in me, doing His works," and this word from John 14 is fulfilled:

"12 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and

greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.”

Christianity is Christ—let us savor today's word while engraving this truth upon our hearts.

2:6 As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, walk in him.

2:7 Rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, overflowing with thankfulness.

The phrase “in him,” “in Christ,” that is, “with Christ,” appears six times in today's passage.

It is as follows:

Walk in him (verse 6), be rooted and built up in him (verse 7), for in Christ all the fullness of God dwells bodily (verse 9), be filled with Him (verse 10), be circumcised by Him with a circumcision not made with hands, that is, the circumcision of Christ (verse 11), be buried with Him through baptism, and be raised with Him through faith in the power of God who raised Him from the dead (verse 12).

To accept Christ Jesus. To receive Him into your heart as your personal Savior means not only accepting His salvation but also embracing a life lived through Jesus. “Since you have accepted the Lord Jesus Christ, walk in Him.”

And as verse 7 states, Christ is our root. Just as plants grow by absorbing water and nutrients from their roots, so too is Jesus our daily sustenance, our foundation, and the source of our life.

John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

15:7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

15:8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

15:9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.

15:10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. Just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love,

15:11 I have told you these things so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete.

15:12 This is my commandment: Love one another as I have loved you.

15:13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

15:14 You are my friends if you do what I command you.

15:15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for everything that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

15:16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.

These words from John 15 are also very important.

They speak of how we are meant to be with Jesus, to learn from Him, and that this is our very life.

2:7 Rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, overflowing with thankfulness.

Our root is Jesus. And upon that foundation, within Jesus, we are powerfully built up. Our faith is strengthened, clearly confirmed, verified, examined, proven, supported, and sustained. Our joy increases and expands, overflows and spreads, knowing no bounds. The Bible tells us to increase our joy, to let it overflow, to live with more joy than is necessary. Be so full of thanksgiving that others might wonder, “Why so much gratitude? You don’t need to be that thankful.” That is our faith. And it is because of our faith that we can do this.

2:8 See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.

There seems to be a belief in the world that unseen forces—invisible spirits and demons—determine human destiny. But that is human thinking. It is human tradition. Compared to God’s wisdom, it is deceptively empty, void of substance, purposeless, futile, and foolish. We are told not to be ensnared by these things.

2:9 For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity dwells bodily,
2:10 and you have been filled in him, who is the head over every rule and authority.
2:11 In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not made with hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ.

In Christ, the divine nature resides within the form of His human existence. The divine nature is overflowing. Within this Christ lies the guidance toward completion, and Christ holds all power and authority to rule over all. We have received circumcision not by human hands, but directly from this Christ—that is, we have been called to a completely new way of life: dying with Christ, living with Christ, and living in Christ. This means we are no longer living according to our innate fleshly nature, but have been placed into a life lived according to God's will, guided by the Holy Spirit.

2:12 You were buried with him in baptism, and raised with him through your faith in the power of God who raised him from the dead.

With this joy in our hearts, we are in Christ and can live this entirely new life with Christ this week as well. Let us spend this week giving thanks, entrusting ourselves, and waiting expectantly.

◇**Prayer: Heavenly Father God, we thank You for today's worship.**

We thank You that we have been shown the example of living in Christ. We are thankful that this is not a life of emptiness, futility, aimless wandering, or foolishness; it is not a life lived in fear of unseen powers. Instead, we are thankful for a world of fulfillment, shaped to resemble God's overflowing nature, and for resurrection from death. Please lead all those who suffer into God's salvation and peace. Bless our families and our neighbors. Use us for Your purposes. We pray in the name of our Lord Jesus. Amen.