



**Week of February 4, 2019: Colossians 2:5-23**

### **Discussion Questions Set #1**

“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness”.  
(Colossians 2:6-7)

In service, we learned that Paul outlines for us the strengths of the Colossian church using four specific descriptors. These four descriptors are important for us to consider as they speak to the health of a church.

The first descriptor is to describe the church as “rooted in Christ”. The idea is that just as soil surrounding a plant’s roots providing it with nourishment and stability, the roots of the Colossian church are enveloped by Jesus.

1. What do you think it means to be rooted in Christ?
2. What might being rooted in Christ provide to a given church community?

The second descriptor is to describe the church as “built up in Christ”. Not only are the footings solid, but the church is being securely built up in Christ.

1. What do you think it means to be built up in Christ?
2. How does a church ensure that it is being built up in Christ?
3. What might happen if a church community fails to be built up in Christ?

The third descriptor is to describe the church as “founded in the faith as you were taught”.

1. Why is being founded in taught faith important for a developing church?
2. What might happen if a church becomes disconnected from its founding faith?

The fourth descriptor is to describe the church as “overflowing with thankfulness”.

1. Why would a church build as Paul suggested be overflowing with thankfulness?
2. What does our level of thankfulness reveal about our strength in Christ?

### **Discussion Questions Set #2**

In service, we described Satan, our enemy, as “an imposter king, parading around like he is a victor, when he is nothing more than a thief with a stolen crown. He wields sin and death as weapons against us, supposing them to secure his rule on earth”. We also learned that through His death and resurrection, Jesus completely stripped the defeated spiritual powers and authorities – including Satan - of any ability to strike back, crushing their weapons of sin and death, making a public spectacle of their crushing defeat in the process.

1. Why is it important that we recognize the truth of who our enemy is?
2. Why is it important that we realize that Jesus “**disarmed the powers and authorities, [and] made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross**” (Colossians 2:15)?
3. What difference might the disarming of our enemy make to our following of Jesus?
4. Our passage indicates three outcomes in our lives that Christ’s victory ensures. Discuss your thoughts on each outcome below:
  - a. we who were spiritually dead are now alive with Christ.
  - b. we who were impure and in slavery to sin and the Law have seen our legal indebtedness cancelled.
  - c. we who were unforgiven are now, fully and completely, forgiven.



### Discussion Questions Set #3

In sermon, we learned that by faith in Jesus, Satan holds no power over us; in essence, in Jesus, we are completely free. Though this is true, we can choose in our freedom to “**be burdened again by a yoke of slavery**” (Galatians 5:1) or taken “**captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy**” (Colossians 2:8). In fact, it is our enemy’s joy to steal the Christian’s freedom.

1. Why might we permit such an enslavement to happen in our lives?
2. We also discussed three chains that our enemy uses to steal our freedom. Discuss each chain described below, considering how each might be at work in our world today:
  - a. Hollow and deceptive philosophy – the love or fondness for knowledge
  - b. A dependence on human tradition and ceremonial behaviour
  - c. A fascination with mysticism or a focus on the “elemental spiritual forces of this world”.