

INTRODUCTION.

TODAY, ~ WE BEGIN THE NEXT SECTION OF COLOSSIANS, ~ 2:6-23.

▶▶ Paul begins the section with the word "Therefore." ~ Verse 6a.

▷▷ This points back ~ to [verse 5](#).

▶▶ Recall in [verse 5](#), ~ Paul had commended these believers ~ for staying faithful in the face of false teaching.

▶▶ Now, ~ in [2:6-23](#), ~ he gives ~ a series of five exhortations, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ calling them, ~ and ~ us indirectly, ~ to continue to stay faithful, ~ and not buckle under the pressure of false teachers.

BASICALLY, ~ BEGINNING WITH VERSE 5, ~ THE OVERARCHING IDEA ~ OF VERSES 6-23 ~ is this.

▶▶ For I may be absent in body, ~ but I am with you in spirit, ~ rejoicing ~ to see ~ how well ordered you are ~ and ~ the strength of your faith in Christ. ~ ¶¶

▷▷ Consequently, ~ continue to stay faithful, ~ and do not buckle under the pressure of false teachers.

AS WE NOTED, ~ IN 2:6-23, ~ PAUL LAYS DOWN A SERIES ~ OF FIVE ~ EXHORTATIONS.

▶▶ Five exhortations calling believers ~ to continue ~ to stay faithful, ~ and not ~ buckle under the pressure of false teachers. ¶¶ 1/15

▶▶ But ~ we just don't get an exhortation.

▶▶ Paul expands on each one ~ with additional teaching..

AT THIS POINT, ~ I'LL JUST IDENTIFY THE BARE BONES ~ of the five exhortations.

▶▶ And we'll look at Paul's elaboration as we deal with each one.

▶▶ Verse 6b. ~~ as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, ~ so walk in him.

▶▶ Verses 8a. ~~ See to it ~ that no one takes you captive.

▶▶ Verses 16a. let no one pass judgment on you.

▶▶ Verse 18a. ~~ Let no one disqualify you.

▶▶ Verse 20. ~~ why, ~ as if you were still alive in the world, ~ do you submit to regulations.

TODAY, ~ WE WILL LOOK AT ~ THE FIRST EXHORTATION to continue ~ ¶¶

▶▶ to stay faithful, ~ and not ~ buckle under the pressure of false teachers.

▶▶ Verses 6b.

▷▷ as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, ~ so walk in him.

▶▶ We'll also look ~ at Paul's elaboration in [verse 7](#).

▷▷ rooted ~ and built up ~ in him ~ and established in the faith, ~ just as you were taught,  
~ abounding in thanksgiving. ¶¶ 2/15

BUT BEFORE WE LOOK AT THE EXHORTATION ITSELF, ~ we need to lay some groundwork.

PAUL'S LEAD-IN STATEMENT.

▶▶ As you received Christ Jesus the Lord.

PAUL BEGINS ~ THE FIRST EXHORTATION ~ BY REMINDING THE BELIEVERS ~ IN Colossae and the surrounding region ~ ¶¶

▶▶ that ~ they had ~ "received ~ Christ Jesus the Lord."

▶▶ Now, ~ this phrase ~ is not primarily ~ referring ~ to receiving Christ Jesus ~ as one's personal Savior and Lord.

▷▷ Although, ~ that is included.

▷▷ As we'll see, ~ it's much broader than that.

▶▶ B&W vs. Colored TV.

▶▶ The Greek word for ~ "received" ~ was the common word ~ for ~ receiving instruction from teachers.

▷▷ It has particular reference here ~ ¶¶

↳↳ to the instruction ~ received by the Colossians ~ from their properly qualified teachers, ~ such as Epaphras.

▶▶ More specifically, ~ the phrase ~ "you received Christ Jesus the Lord" ~ refers ~ to the reception of the sound teaching ~ about Jesus. ¶¶ 3/15

▷▷ Again, ~ not primarily receiving him ~ as Savior and Lord.

↳↳ Although ~ that is implied ~ in the reception of the teaching.

▷▷ But, ~ more broadly, ~ it means ~ embracing and believing ~ the sound teaching ~ about Jesus.

▶▶ So Paul here ~ was pointing his original readers ~ back to the experience ~ of receiving ~ the sound teaching ~ about Jesus.

▷▷ They had ~ heard, ~ understood, ~ and believed ~ the sound doctrine ~ that they had been taught ~ about Jesus.

CONSEQUENTLY, ~ WE CAN READ THE FIRST EXHORTATION THIS WAY.

▶▶ as you received the sound teaching about Christ Jesus, ~ the Lord, ~ so walk in him.

THE PHRASE, ~ "CHRIST JESUS THE LORD" ~ IS A UNIQUE PHRASE.

▶▶ And it can be translated six different ways.

▷▷ Don't panic . . . .

▷▷ The translation ~ depends on whether ~ "Christ" ~ functions as a proper name or title.

▷▷ Based on my research ~ of the grammatical structure of the phrase, ~ ¶¶

↳↳ it seems the best way to view it ~ is ~ as a title ~ and not ~ a personal name.

▷▷ The translation, ~ then, ~ is ~ "the Christ/Messiah, ~ Jesus, ~ the Lord." ¶¶ 4/15

▶▶ So, ~ we can read the first exhortation this way.

▷▷ as you received the sound teaching about ~ the Messiah, ~ Jesus, ~ the Lord, ~ so walk in him.

▶▶ Notice ~ that ~ the Person and work of Jesus is in view here.

▷▷ Messiah = Savior. ⇔⇔ Jesus = humanity. ⇔⇔ Lord = his deity.

▶▶ Of course, ~ Paul is summarizing here.

▷▷ Teaching would've been much more extensive.

↪↪ Messiah = Savior. ⇔⇔ Jesus = humanity. ⇔⇔ Lord = his deity.

▶▶ So, ~ the sound teaching they had heard, ~ understood, ~ and believed ~ was specifically ~ about ~ the Person and work of Jesus.

▶▶ So basically, ~ the first exhortation to continue ~ to stay faithful, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ and not ~ buckle under the pressure of false teachers is this.

▷▷ as you received the sound teaching ~ about ~ the Person and work of Jesus, ~ so walk in him.

▶▶ And notice ~ that Paul ~ puts Jesus ~ in the center ~ of the phrase.

▷▷ He says, ~ the Messiah, ~ Jesus, ~ the Lord.

▷▷ No doubt for emphasis, ~ underscoring exactly ~ who Jesus is. ¶¶ 5/15

▷▷Paul makes it very clear ~ just who ~ is ~ Messiah ~ and Lord.

↳↳Jesus of Nazareth.

▷▷1 Tim. 2:5 (CSB). ~ For there is ~ one God ~ and one mediator between God and humanity, ~ the man Christ Jesus.

▷▷In Acts, ~ Peter, ~ speaking of Jesus, ~ says that ~ God has given ~ no other name under heaven ~ by which we must be saved.

THE PHRASE, ~ "THE MESSIAH, ~ JESUS, ~ THE LORD," ~ REFUTES ~ ¶¶

▶▶at least two ~ of the tenets ~ of the false teaching ~ that was plaguing these believers.

▷▷1<sup>st</sup>, ~ the notion that God could not become human.

↳↳Recall that ~ based on their belief that all matter is evil, ~ the heretics taught that ~ God, ~ in Jesus, ~ never could have become a human person.

↳↳Their thinking was, ~ if matter is evil, ~ how could God ~ ever be united ~ with a human body?

↳↳Thus, ~ the heretics denied ~ either ~ the humanity ~ or the deity ~ of Christ.

↳↳In their view, ~ he couldn't have been both.

↳↳Paul refuted this within his list ~ of sweeping and profound assertions about Jesus.

→→And now ~ he refutes it again. ¶¶ 6/15

▷▷ And 2<sup>nd</sup>, ~ the false teachers ~ were making Jesus out ~ to be less ~ than what he truly is.

↳↳ Paul declares unequivocally, ~ Jesus is ~ both ~ Lord and Christ.

▷▷ The heretics were distorting the Person and work of Jesus.

↳↳ And it's like that in ~ every generation.

↳↳ False teachers ~ always ~ distort ~ Jesus' Person and work.

↳↳ False teachers ~ proclaim a Jesus ~ who is not quite God ~ and never quite saves, ~ as the cults teach; ~ ~ ↴↴

↳↳ a Jesus ~ who wants you healthy and wealthy, ~ as preached by many televangelists; ~ ~ or a Jesus ~ whom you ask into your life to make you feel good.

OK, ~ HAVING LAID THE GROUNDWORK, ~ NOW LET'S LOOK AT THE 1<sup>st</sup> EXHORTATION.

SO WALK IN HIM.

▶▶ The form of the Greek verb is continuous.

▷▷ So the exhortation to us ~ is ~ Continue ~ to walk in him.

▶▶ Now, ~ we're talking about the sound teaching ~ about ~ the Person and work of Jesus

▷▷ So, ~ the phrase ~ is referring primarily ~ to staying faithful ~ to this correct teaching ~ about Jesus. ↴↴ 7/15

▷▷IOW, ~ Paul is saying, ~ "Continue to stay faithful ~ to sound doctrine ~ in the face of false teaching."

▶▶In broader terms, ~ however, ~ walking ~ would include ~ living in conformity ~ with the sound teaching about Christ.

▷▷Sound doctrine contains within it ~ a demand ~ to live in a particular way.

↪↪It includes ethics.

▷▷Sound doctrine ~ teaches and leads us ~ to live godly lives.

▷▷And we are to live ~ under ~ the control and influence ~ of sound doctrine.

▷▷Titus 2:11-12.

↪↪<sup>11</sup> For the grace of God has appeared, ~ bringing salvation for all people, ~ ~ <sup>12</sup> training us ~ to renounce ~ ungodliness and worldly passions, ~ ~ and ~ to live ~ self-controlled, ~ upright, ~ and godly lives ~ in the present age.

SO, ~ MOST LIKELY THEN, ~ THE BROADER IDEA HERE IS THIS.

▶▶Continue to stay faithful to sound doctrine ~ in ~ belief ~ and ~ practice.

▷▷And of course ~ this continual faithfulness would include ~ remaining faithful ~ in our commitment ~ to Jesus.

▶▶Paul wants us ~ to never waver ~ in our commitment to Jesus ~ or ~ 77

▷▷in the face of instruction ~ that contradicts sound doctrine, ~ whether in belief or practice. 77 8/15



## FALSE TEACHERS ~ NOT ONLY ~ DISTORT SOUND DOCTRINE ~ BUT ALSO ~ SOUND practice.

▶▶ As we've discussed before, ~ while there may be some exceptions to this, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ I would suggest ~ that often ~ false teaching ~ leads ~ to ungodly living.

▶▶ Scripture ~ definitely shows us ~ that ungodly living often goes along with false teaching.

▷▷ In [1 Tim.](#), ~ Paul calls on Tim. to hold firmly to sound doctrine and a good conscience.

↪↪ Then he goes on to say ~ that the cause ~ ¶¶

→→ of some making shipwreck of their faith ~ was their rejection ~ of ~ sound doctrine ~ and ~ a good conscience.

▷▷ In his second epistle, ~ Peter says that ~ not only do false teachers teach false doctrine, ~ they ~ also ~ are ~ immoral, ~ greedy, ~ and exploit people.

▷▷ Jude says that ~ along with denying Jesus, ~ false teachers say ~ that God's marvelous grace ~ allows us to live immoral lives.

▶▶ Ungodly living often goes along with false teaching.

▶▶ So not only ~ is there the danger ~ of abandoning sound doctrine because of false teaching, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ there is the added danger ~ of adopting ~ an ungodly lifestyle.

▷▷ As Paul says in [1 Cor. 15:33](#), ~ [NIV](#) ~ Do not be misled: ~ "Bad company ~ corrupts good character." ¶¶ 9/15

PAUL'S FIRST EXHORTATION CALLING US ~ TO CONTINUE TO STAY FAITHFUL, ~ AND to not buckle under the pressure of false teachers.

▶▶ Never waver ~ in your commitment to Jesus ~ or ~ 77

▷▷ in the face of instruction ~ that contradicts sound doctrine, ~ whether in belief, ~ or practice.

IN VERSE 7, ~ PAUL TELLS US HOW ~ TO STAY FAITHFUL.

ROOTED ~ AND BUILT UP IN HIM ~ AND ESTABLISHED IN THE FAITH, ~ JUST AS YOU were taught, ~ abounding in thanksgiving.

▶▶ Here he gives us four safeguards, ~ that will ~ protect us ~ from false teaching ~ 77

▷▷ and ~ from abandoning our commitment to Jesus ~ and sound doctrine, ~ both in belief and practice.

THE FIRST SAFEGUARD.

▶▶ Being rooted in Jesus.

▶▶ I.e., ~ being ~ established and stable ~ in Jesus.

▷▷ Since the exhortation includes ~ being faithful to our commitment to Jesus, ~ 77

↳↳ most likely ~ our commitment to him ~ is in view here.

▷▷ So, ~ the first safeguard against false teaching, then, ~ would be ~ a commitment to Jesus ~ that is established and stable. 77 10/15

▷▷ TPID, ~ a rock-solid commitment to Jesus ~ will protect us ~ 77

↳↳ from false teaching ~ and ~ prevent us ~ from abandoning ~ sound doctrine ~ and Jesus.

▷▷ Some questions ~ to test ~ our commitment to him.

↳↳ Is Jesus the center of my life?

→→ I.e., ~ is my life all about ~ me ~ or ~ Jesus?

↳↳ How much do I really love Him?

↳↳ And, ~ is it my desire ~ to worship him, ~ live for him, ~ and to serve him?

▶▶ Remember, ~ because of the presence of our sin nature within us, ~ 77

▷▷ we can still be attracted back ~ to the domain of darkness.

↳↳ And a strong attraction to it ~ will make us vulnerable ~ to false teachers.

▷▷ But ~ the stronger our commitment to Jesus, ~ the less likely ~ we will be pulled into false teaching.

THE SECOND SAFEGUARD ~ THAT WILL ~ PROTECT US ~ FROM FALSE TEACHING ~ 77

▶▶ and ~ prevent us ~ from abandoning sound doctrine ~ and ~ commitment to Jesus.

▶▶ Being built up in Jesus. 11/15

▶▶ Since the exhortation calls us to be faithful to sound doctrine, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ most likely this refers ~ to being ~ built up ~ in the sound teaching ~ about Jesus' Person and work.

▶▶ And this is exactly ~ what Peter exhorts us to do in 2 Pet. 3:18a.

▷▷ But grow ~ in the grace and knowledge ~ of ~ [i.e., ~ about] ~ our Lord and Savior ~ Jesus Christ.

↪↪ Since Paul has growth in knowledge, ~ we'll focus on this aspect here.

→→ And since the grace aspect is beyond the scope of our study here, ~ you can trace that out on your own.

▶▶ The greater our knowledge about Jesus, ~ the less likely it will be ~ that we will be pulled into false teaching.

▶▶ And, ~ obviously, ~ the way we grow ~ in the "knowledge about our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" ~ is ~ ¶¶

▷▷ by reading and studying the Scriptures, ~ ¶¶

↪↪ by listening to sound teaching and preaching, ~ and ~ by reading material ~ that adheres ~ to sound teaching about Jesus.

▶▶ And this growth ~ is to be an ongoing thing. ⇔⇔ Always more to learn.

THE THIRD SAFEGUARD ~ THAT WILL ~ PROTECT US ~ FROM FALSE TEACHING ~ and ~ prevent us ~ from abandoning sound doctrine ~ and ~ commitment to Jesus.

▶▶ Being established in the faith. ¶¶ 12/15

▶▶ Now Paul broadens his scope.

▷▷ First, ~ he was more specific, ~ referring to sound teaching about Jesus.

▷▷ Now he makes it comprehensive.

▷▷ Referring to all sound doctrine.

▶▶ "faith" here ~ refers to, ~ as Jude says, ~ "the faith ~ that was once for all ~ delivered to the saints."

▷▷ I.e., ~ the special revelation of God that Scripture contains.

▷▷ TPID, ~ what God has said and revealed from Genesis to Revelation.

▶▶ So, ~ Paul is saying here ~ that the third safeguard against false teaching is ~ being well-grounded in Scripture.

▷▷ When we're well-grounded in God's word, ~ we will quickly recognize the lies of the false teachers.

▷▷ Speaking of the righteous person, ~ ¶¶

↳↳ David says in Ps. 37:31, ~ "The law of his God is in his heart; ~ his steps do not slip.

↳↳ David says ~ the righteous person ~ has learned God's word, ~ remembers its teachings, ~ and it controls their thinking.

→→ And as a result, ~ they do not slip into sin. ¶¶ 13/15

↪↪ Applied to the current context, ~ ¶¶

→→ when we have learned God's word, ~ remember its teachings, ~ and it controls our thinking, ~ we will not fall prey to false teachers.

▶▶ And here's why ~ this is so important.

▷▷ Paul, ~ in In [2 Cor. 11:15](#), ~ states that, ~ just like their evil leader, ~ ¶¶

↪↪ Satan's servants, ~ in the present context false teachers, ~ [disguise themselves as servants of righteousness.](#)"

▷▷ Peter . . . .

▷▷ Jude . . . .

▷▷ If we're not well-grounded in God's word, ~ how will we know ~ when the lies are being introduced?

▷▷ So there is a great need ~ for believers to be well-grounded ~ in God's word.

AND THE FOURTH SAFEGUARD ~~ THAT WILL ~ PROTECT US ~ FROM FALSE TEACHING  
~ and ~ prevent us ~ from abandoning sound doctrine ~ and ~ commitment to Jesus.

▶▶ Abounding in thanksgiving. ⇨⇨ [Interesting safeguard . . . .](#)

▶▶ God's people are called to be a thankful people.

▷▷ And rightly so.

▷▷ 6x in Col. ¶¶ 14/15

▷▷ When we think of how much God loves us ~ and all that he has done for us, ~ given us, ~ and will give us, ~ 77

↪↪ how could we ~ not ~ be thankful?

▶▶ What Paul is implying here, ~ when he says ~ abounding in thanksgiving, ~ is that ~ 77

▷▷ believers ~ who lack a deep sense of thankfulness to God ~ are especially vulnerable ~ to false teaching.

▶▶ When we abound in thanksgiving to our heavenly Father ~ it's less likely ~ that we will be pulled into false teaching.

### CONCLUSION.

STAY FAITHFUL, ~ PAUL SAYS, ~ to sound doctrine ~ and ~ to your commitment to Jesus.

▶▶ By having ~ a rock-solid commitment to Jesus. ⇨⇨ By growing ~ in the knowledge about Jesus.

▷▷ By being ~ well grounded in God's word. ⇨⇨ And ~ by abounding ~ in thanksgiving to our heavenly Father.

▶▶ And ~ I do believe ~ we need all four ~ working at the same time ~ to give us adequate protection against false teachers.

LET'S PRAY . . . . 15/15