Pastor David Choi

Growing In(to) Christ

**Scripture Reading:**

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. (Colossians 2:6-7)

1. Introduction
   1. New semester goal: To *deepen* our personal relationship with Christ
   2. Question: What advice does Paul give us in order to do this?
   3. Theme/Answer: Trust in Christ and what he’s already done for you
   4. Three points to make…
2. Point 1: Recognize Christ
   1. Our faith, or a lack thereof, is determined by where we begin
   2. Paul says growing in faith can only begin by having first received Christ Jesus the Lord (will consider more in depth later)
   3. Two main things:
      1. *Receive* – You don’t earn it, or work for it, but you receive it by pure grace
      2. *The Lord* – Not as an idea, but as *Lord* over your life
   4. Opposite of that is thinking you’ve earned something, which means Christ is not your Lord but your pawn to justify sin
3. Point 2: Trust and Obey
   1. Receiving Christ is solely by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8-9)
   2. Faith is trusting in what Christ has done for you (Ephesians 2:1-7)
   3. Rooted and Built in Faith
      1. Biological metaphor of being rooted in Christ
         1. Nourishment in Christ
      2. Architectural metaphor of being built on the foundation of Christ
         1. Not shaken in Christ
   4. Obey by Walking in Christ
      1. God gives strength to obey and follow Jesus in your life
         1. To consider others more significant than yourself (Phil. 2:3)
      2. We have communion with Christ as we share in his sufferings
      3. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, “Only the believers obey, and only the obedient believe” (*Discipleship* 24).
4. Point 3: Abound in Thanks…
   1. Because we have nothing apart from him, and everything in him
   2. Because he doesn’t give us what we deserve: death and condemnation
   3. Because we remember he is good regardless of how we feel or what our circumstances are
   4. Because Christ is faithful, even when we are faithless (2 Tim. 2:11-13)

**Discussion Questions:**

1. How do you approach your relationship with Christ? Is he Lord and Savior of your life?

2. Are you trying to earn grace? How so?

3. Why is it hard to trust in Jesus and to accept what he’s done for you on the cross?

4. How are you being nourished in Christ? What are some spiritual disciplines you can set for yourself to create (deeper) roots in Christ?

5. Bonhoeffer says only believers obey, and only the obedient believe. What is it about obeying Christ that allows us to have greater faith in him? How are *you* being called to obey in this particular time?

6. What do you think Christ is saying to you by this lesson? How is he calling you to grow and to change?