

Colossians 2:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:

Analysis

As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him. This pivotal verse establishes the epistle's practical section. "Received" (parelabete, παρελάβετε) refers to accepting apostolic tradition—Christ Jesus as Lord (sovereign ruler), not merely helpful teacher or mystical guide. Initial reception determines ongoing conduct; conversion establishes pattern for sanctification. The gospel received at conversion contains everything needed for lifelong faithfulness.

"Walk in him" (peripateite en autō, περιπατεῖτε ἐν αὐτῷ) means continuous daily conduct within the sphere of union with Christ. Present imperative indicates ongoing command: keep walking as you began walking. The Colossian heresy suggested that simple faith in Christ initiated spiritual life but advanced techniques enabled progress. Paul counters: walk the same way you started—by faith in Christ's sufficiency, not supplementary methods.

Historical Context

Ancient mystery religions typically featured progressive stages: initial purification, intermediate instruction, advanced revelation. The Colossian teaching apparently proposed similar stages, treating faith in Christ as elementary step requiring supplementation for spiritual maturity. Paul demolishes such thinking: Christ is both starting point and entire path. Mature faith deepens understanding and application of Christ, not abandoning Him for advanced techniques.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. Have you added requirements to Christ that weren't part of your conversion—special experiences, knowledge, or practices?
2. How does your current spiritual life compare to your initial conversion—same foundation or different approach?
3. What does 'walking in Christ' look like practically in daily decisions, relationships, and priorities?

Interlinear Text

Ὡς	οὖν	παρελάβετε	τὸν	Χριστὸν	Ἰησοῦν	τὸν	κύριον
As	therefore	received	G3588	Christ	Jesus	G3588	the Lord
G5613	G3767	G3880		G5547	G2424		G2962

ἐν	αὐτῷ	περιπατεῖτε
in	him	so walk ye
G1722	G846	G4043

Additional Cross-References

Colossians 1:10 (References Lord): That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

1 John 2:6 (Parallel theme): He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

1 Thessalonians 4:1 (References Jesus): Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more.

Galatians 2:20 (References Christ): I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

2 Corinthians 5:7 (Parallel theme): (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

Colossians 3:17 (References Jesus): And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

Jude 1:3 (Parallel theme): Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

1 John 5:20 (References Jesus): And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

Hebrews 3:14 (References Christ): For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;

Ephesians 4:1 (References Lord): I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,