**Lessons from a Lockdown**

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**Day 23**

**Colossians 2:6-7**

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.

***Questions for Personal Reflection:***

1. How does my commitment to God today compare to when I first said “Jesus is Lord” during my baptism?
2. What is the evidence that shows that Jesus is Lord of my life?
3. What does it mean to continue to live my life in him?
4. What does it mean to be rooted and built up in him?
5. How can I be “strengthened in the faith”? How does a person overflow with thankfulness?

***Insight:***

Just like the Colossians, our Christian lives began when we proclaimed Jesus is Lord in the waters of baptism. As *Steve Kinnard* explains, “receiving Christ is to reserve the person and teaching of Christ.” After receiving Christ as Lord, we then continue to live in him. Other translations state the phrase as “walk in him.”

Step by step, day by day, we are to conduct our affairs in conscious submission to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. (Max Anders)

How is our daily walk with Christ? For those of us staying at home during this crisis, there is really no excuse why we cannot walk with God. Not only do we have more time to spend with God, we should also be even more motivated to be with God during this time. The circumstances we are in should humble us and convince us even more of our need for God. If this pandemic does not motivate us to be close to God, then what will? Let us make it our goal to walk with God every day of this lockdown.

*Rooted.* The word in Greek translated as rooted indicates “a condition that exists because of past action.” (Kinnard) It means that “disciples are rooted in Christ because of what God has done for them in the past.” (Kinnard) In other words, because we are Christians we are rooted in Christ. This means we should draw our nourishment from Jesus. He is what keeps us alive. Roots also are what keeps a plant anchored and secure. If plants could speak, wouldn’t it be foolish for them to say, “Oh what gives me security are my flowers” or “I will be protected from the storm because of my fruits.” In the same way, it is foolishness for us to base our security on our talents or accomplishments. Our security is based on how rooted we are in Christ. The more we grow, the more we need our roots to go deeper. We need more nourishment and security from Jesus and not less as we grow. The older we get as Christians, the more dependent we need to be on Jesus.

*Built up.* The Greek word indicates that God “continues to build up disciples.” (Kinnard). So while we are planted (rooted) once, we continuously grow. We should never stop growing. The moment we stop growing, we start dying.

We are to be built up “in him”. Perhaps this means we are to be built up in Jesus’ image. As we grow older, we should become more and more like Christ. It can also mean that we should be built up in accordance with His will. Each of us must become the person God wants us to be. We are the building and God is the architect. To be able to accomplish this, we need to know Jesus and His will for us more and more. We need to frequently ask ourselves: How can I be more like Christ? Am I fulfilling His design for my life?

*Strengthened.* The Greek word indicates that “God is doing the strengthening.” (Kinnard) God wants to strengthen our faith. Our faith is supposed to grow stronger. How does faith become stronger? God strengthened Abraham’s faith by making him face challenges. God strengthened Moses’ faith by showing him miracles. In the book of Acts, we see God doing the same thing to the early Christians. He strengthened their faith through challenges and miracles. What challenges are we facing that should strengthen our faith? What miracles has God shown us that should strengthen our faith?

*Overflowing with thankfulness.* It is not enough that we are thankful to God. We should be overflowing with gratefulness.

Paul frequently employed thankfulness as one of the litmus tests of Christian health…One of the first indicators of departure from God is a lack of thanksgiving. (Melick)

If our Christian life is like a car, we should always check our “gratitude gauge.” In the same way we get concerned if the oil gauge indicates we are low in oil, we should also be concerned if our gratitude for God is not at its fullest. We should continually maintain a full tank of gratitude by always looking for reasons to be grateful. The pandemic should not make us less grateful. In fact we have gained more reasons to be grateful during this crisis. Let us make a list of things we are grateful for and thank God for these things daily.

Lockdown or not, we should continue to live our lives in Jesus.