

## **Colossians 2:6-10 – Complete In Christ (Christian Maturity)**

This passage tells us the key to the Christian life. Sadly today, if you hear ten different preachers they may give you ten different keys! But here, we can listen to the apostle of Christ. We won't need a different key next year! In fact, the key is just above the door; not far. It is here in God's word.

### **A command (v6)**

This is a command for Christians. Paul tells us who Christians are. They are those who “received Christ as Lord”. They have received Jesus himself. It is not membership, or baptism, or walking to the front, or filling in a card, or having a preacher pray for us. It is to receive the living Jesus as Lord and Master. Have you done that? Then here is the command: to continue the way we began. Paul gives us three pictures: 1) A walk: a steady, continuing, active persevering in following Jesus as Master. 2) Being rooted: this is what a plant does – it draws life up through its roots. Our roots are in Christ; we must draw upon him every day. 3) A building being put up, brick-by-brick: we must grow *in Christ* day by day. We do not search for new things, but to build upon him as our crucified and risen Saviour day by day. He is the beginning, middle and end. This is what we were taught (v7). We do this with thanksgiving. Giving thanks chases the devil away – a rejoicing Christian is a strong one; a complaining Christian has learnt little. This continuing in Christ is the real key to a strong Christianity – not some anointing or second blessing to run after, but to continue as we began, firmly rooted in Jesus Christ.

### **A reason (v9-10) – why is this the key?**

All the fulness of God is found in the man Jesus Christ. What is our true need? It is God's grace, power, love, mercy and strength. Where can we find that? We can find it in God come in the flesh (1 Tim. 3:16, John 1:14). Paul says that believers are complete in him. Our real need is to know all that we have in Christ and to lay hold of him. Satan tries to take our eyes away from Jesus – to make us look everywhere else for completeness. Our true need is to seek him fully and know him more. We need to understand what we already have, and how to grow in it.

### **A warning (v8)**

Paul knows that some preachers preach other things. Not just in Colosse, not just in Homa Bay – but everywhere. True teachers need to warn their people. Beware of substitutes – beware of fakes! Many have been spoilt. Clever ideas, new thoughts and new ideas have come to them. They looked good and sounded good – but they were not grounded and rooted in Christ. Anything that does not make Christ, his death and resurrection, to be central, is empty. We cannot improve on Christ! Everything not based on Christ is based on the world, which is passing away (1 John 2:16-17). This world is under God's judgment. We must not follow promises of riches or an easy life, but must seek Christ himself and his work in our souls. We must hold on to him and never let him go.