

By Juanita Coy

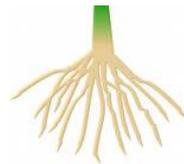
In the book of Colossians, Chapter 2, Paul writes to the Christians, the followers of Christ, to those who have accepted Christ and are striving to live as God would have them.

In this group of people as is the case today, there were problems, and these concerns were weighing heavy on Paul's heart. In these verses, he is leading, yet exhorting and warning the Colossians again of the "wolves in sheep's clothing." (Matt. 7:15) And I am sure if he could he would say the same to us today in this day and age, for the conflict is the same.

Paul writes to the Colossians of their steadfastness and he says for them to be "Rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as we have been taught, abounding therein in thanksgiving." (vs. 7)

To be rooted is to be grounded, anchored in the truth. There's no room for "wishy-washy Christians." just "rowing with the flow."

We must not have our faith in a person or in a denomination. We must be steadfast in the faith that we have been taught, - in the word of God, not in man's doctrines or beliefs, and then and only then can we grow, and be "built up." And when we are, we can be at peace and abide in thanksgiving to the Father for His truth given. We can be strong enough to defeat Satan.



"Beware, lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after traditions of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. (vs. 8)

How true this is today! Vain doctrines, modern philosophies, showmanship, power and greed have taken over the pulpit. As Christians, our feet must be planted in the Word, ready to “try the spirits whether they are of God.” (1 John 4:1)

Jeremiah 17:8, “For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river and shall not fear when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green, and shall not be careful in the year of draught, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.” (Wow)

In other words, when we are grounded deep in Him, we don’t have to worry during the drought. When rough times come we will continually bear fruit and grow in Christ, we will not waver or dry up.

And when the wind blows, and you can be sure it will, our faith will keep us strong. Paul wrote to the Ephesians (4:14) to not be “children tossed to and fro, carried about with every wind of doctrine by the sleight of men.” He says they lie in wait to deceive us.



Now I agree, we must be open to light, and we must search the truth out. But let us look to God and to the Word for our instructions and once we know the truth, remain steadfast in that belief. Don’t be up and down in what you believe, look to the Lord to lead you into further light

One thing we can be sure of, Satan is out to get Christians, and one way he can do that is to strike us where it counts, at our roots, our faith and belief. If he can blur our vision of the truth, and confuse us spiritually with false doctrines and deceptions he will soon get us where he wants us.

Also be “rooted and grounded in love.” (Eph. 3:17) This means to love unconditionally as Christ loved, and not be controlled by what someone does, or doesn’t do, - - and that is the hard part.

By loving each other in spite of our differences doctrinally and perhaps spiritually our love for the Lord will also grow.

*“Therefore brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught.” (11 Thess. 2:15)*

