



You would think after 35 years, I would know all there is to know about Cindie. Nothing could be further from the truth. There are times when we are sharing a meal with another couple that she will recount a story from her childhood, that takes me by complete surprise. Occasionally I will watch her respond to a situation I have seen her respond to a hundred times before, and her response is exactly the opposite of what I might have imagined. Although I know her intimately, she is a wonderfully complex woman and a complete mystery to me. I am never more at risk than when I assume I have her all figured out.

If that is true for Cindie, then how much more true is that of Jesus. Paul's message to the believers in Colossae and Laodicea is that in Christ you have more than you will ever know and all that you will ever need.

Colossians 2:6-7 is arguably the high point and most pivotal passage in Paul's letter to the Colossians. He reminds us, once again, of who Christ is and what it means to live our lives in Him.

Let me share my translation of the passage in order to bring out some of the nuances hidden away in the passage:

***In the same way you initially received the Messiah, Jesus, the Lord, continue to order your lives in Him, having been rooted [in him], and now being built up in him, being confirmed in your faith as you were taught, and always overflowing with thankfulness.***

## RECEIVING JESUS AS MESSIAH AND LORD (v. 6)

Verse 6 is central to the entire book of Colossians. Paul is telling the believers at Colossae to continue in the faith the same way they began in the faith, by holding fast to Jesus. The wording of the phrase “Christ Jesus as Lord” is unique in Paul’s writing. It might literally read “The Messiah, Jesus, the Lord.” The emphasis is on Jesus as “the Messiah” and “the Lord.”

1. The word Christ is not a name, but a title, and in most cases would better be translated, “Messiah.” It refers the Davidic King who would reign throughout eternity and usher in the golden era of God’s blessing. He is portrayed as the shepherd who genuinely cares for the sheep. In Isaiah, the Davidic king is also portrayed as the suffering servant, the one who would take our sin upon himself in order that we might experience the fullness of God’s blessing?
  - a. What do you think it means to receive Jesus as Messiah?
  - b. What do you think it means to continue in Jesus as Messiah?
2. “Lord” is another one of those words that we think we know what it means, but probably fail to recognize its significance. While the word “lord” is used of human masters in the Old Testament, the word “Lord” is reserved for God and God alone in its fullest sense. So while the disciples initially called Jesus “lord” because he was their teacher and the head of a tight-knit group of followers, after the resurrection they begin to call him “Lord” because they recognized he exercised all the prerogatives of the Creator God. He commanded nature. He forgave sin. He exercised power over life and death. In John 5:26, Jesus says, “For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself”. As Lord, Jesus is both our creator and redeemer. He is the one who gives us physical and spiritual life.
  1. What do you think it means to receive Jesus as Lord?
  2. What do you think it means to continue in Jesus as Lord?

## ORDERING OUR LIVES IN HIM (v. 7)

Verse 7 is built around four participles that describe how we continue with Jesus as our Messiah and Lord. So the flow of the verse goes something like this (I’ve highlighted the participles just in case you’ve forgotten what a participle even is):

*“Continue to order your lives in Him, **having been rooted** [in Him], and now **being built up** in Him, **being confirmed** in your faith as you were taught, and always **overflowing** with thankfulness.”*

The first three participles are passive, in other words they are not things we do, but the things God does in and through us as we walk with Him. We do not root ourselves. We do not establish ourselves. We certainly do not confirm ourselves.

The first participle is a perfect passive, which means that it is something that has already been done and will have a lasting impact on our lives. God has already rooted us in him and our rootedness is the source of everything that follows.

The second two participles are present passive participles, which means that God continues to establish us in Him and confirm us in the faith as we walk with him.

The final participle is a present active participle, which means it is something we do, and should never stop doing. Overflowing with thankfulness is our response to having been rooted and now being built up in him and being confirmed in our faith.

1. How does knowing that these are not things we do (with the exception of overflowing with thankfulness), but things that God has done for us or is continuing to do in and through us as we walk with him, change your approach to walking with Christ or “ordering your life in Him?”
2. What do you think it means to “overflow with thankfulness?”
3. How would you describe your own level of thankfulness? Is the spigot completely shut off? ...barely a trickle? ...a nice steady flow? ...or overflowing?
4. What are some ways that overflowing thankfulness might dramatically change our relationship with Christ and those around us?