

sermon notes

May 31, 2026 | Pastor Tony Caffey, Messiah Bible Church | **Preeminence**
“Walk and Watch Out” | **Colossians 2:6–8**

What Does a Christian Do After Conversion?

1) We _____ in _____ (2:6–7)

a) We _____ our roots into him

b) We are _____ up in him

c) We _____ firm in the faith

d) We _____ with thanksgiving

2) We _____ Out for _____ (2:8)

Questions for Further Application of God’s Word:

GO DEEPER

Read Colossians 2:6–8. What does it mean to receive Christ? Does Paul assume the Colossian Christians have received Christ? Have you received Christ? Is “receiving Christ” another way of describing conversion? How does it relate to justification, regeneration, repentance, and faith?

What does it mean to “walk in Christ?” What does the metaphor of walking suggest? Does walking imply direction as well as movement? How does walking in Christ differ from merely believing facts about Christ? Can someone stand still spiritually? Can someone walk in Christ if he or she hasn’t received him?

What does it mean to be rooted and built up in Christ (2:7)? What does it mean to be established in the faith? Are these ongoing realities for the Christian or is it a once-for-all-time experience?

GET PERSONAL

Reread Colossians 2:8. Give some examples of “empty deceit” and “traditions” that don’t accord with Christ or the Christian faith (e.g., prosperity theology, secular self-help spirituality, moralistic religion, mysticism detached from Scripture, expressive individualism, cultural Christianity)? How are you watching out for Christ counterfeits in your spiritual life?

Have you ever seen someone who was “taken captive” by a Christ counterfeit? What “philosophy and empty deceit” did that person embrace? How did it contradict Christ and the gospel? Was there an attempt by Christian brothers and sisters to rescue or restore that individual?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Take a moment to reflect on your years as a Christ follower. What has your “walk” looked like? What are some key moments in your journey? When were you tempted to veer off course? What helped you to keep going? Now, in light of Paul’s statement at the end of 2:7, take some time to express thankfulness for what God has brought you through. Spend about ten minutes praying to God, but do nothing other than thank him for what he’s done in your life.

ADVANCED QUESTIONS FOR DEEPER STUDY

What are “the elemental spirits of the world” that Paul mentions in 2:8? There are three main views concerning this expression. Try to find those three in a commentary, Study Bible, or another resource. After identifying those three views, which of the three is the most plausible for Paul’s meaning in this passage? What other passages in the NT reference this expression (or a similar expression)?