



Colossians 2:6-7 – Living for Jesus as Lord

Lakeshore Community Church of Christ, 9:00am & 6:30pm, 29 August 2010

Our church's mission statement is "Living for Jesus, by making, maturing and mobilising disciples of Christ. The first three words – "Living for Jesus" – may have slipped past you, but we're going to look at them today.

Everyone knows that the Captain of a ship is the man in charge. In the great days of sail, on voyages of months or years, he was more than that: he had absolute Authority. His word was law!

The Ship's Captain is the unquestioned leader. He decides the course. Allocates the duties. If you crossed him, you'd be off the ship at the next port, clapped in irons, or worse! He could even legally marry people!!

When you get on the ship, you are saying – "I'm going where he takes me, I'm doing what he tells me."

Living for Jesus means **Jesus is the captain of the ship**, and we're the crew. Jesus is the captain of the ship.

In biblical terms: **Jesus is Lord**. Living for Jesus means **Jesus is Lord**.

But, this side of heaven, we are inclined to struggle against this. If Jesus is the captain of the ship, **there's a mutineer hiding in every one of us!** Our sinful nature is inclined to rebel against the Lordship of Jesus.

It seemed very simple when you first received Jesus as your "**Lord and Saviour**", didn't it?! Very black and white. As you've continued in your Christian life, has **your daily commitment to living for Jesus as Lord remained firm, or has it wavered?**

Here in Colossians 2:6-7 we find some encouragement and guidance for **living for Jesus as Lord**. It's only 1 sentence, but it's jam packed...

These are the key verses of the whole book of Colossians. Last week in Col 2:1-5, Paul was worried that these new Christians were looking elsewhere than Jesus, and his encouragement was that there was nowhere else to look! Learn more about Jesus! “Right thinking lead to right living”. “Learning about Jesus leads to Living for Jesus”

And so Paul turns his attention from learning about Jesus to living for Jesus...

1. Continue just as you started

Read: Verses 6 & 7

- **Question: How should we live?**
- The basic principle is immediately clear:
 - o Just as you received Christ, continue to live in him.
 - o The way you started is the way you continue.
 - o The way in is the way on.

Have you had “management syndrome” in your career?

- You started out doing what you love, but ended up as a manager? Had those moments of “this isn’t what I signed up for!!
- **Good news: It doesn’t apply here!!!!**
- If you actually do feel like this, I thank God that you are here today – listening to this sermon may be the way you can return to the way you first received Jesus.

So – how did the Colossians receive Jesus?

- Verse 6: How did you receive Christ Jesus? **As Lord.**
- So how do you continue to live? **With Jesus as Lord**

- **How should we live?**
 - o **With Jesus as our Lord.**

What do you remember about the time when you first became a Christian?

- You gave your life to him!
- Committed to follow him in everything
- Knew your absolute need for him
- Surrendered everything to him
- You asked Jesus to be your Lord!

Jesus is the captain of the ship! You said “I’m going where you take me, I’m doing what you tell me.”

We started by received Jesus **as our Lord**, and that’s how we continue to live for him.

Let’s ask a 2nd question:

- What happened so that the Colossians (and us) could receive Jesus as Lord?
- Paul’s told us already: Read 1:21-22, 23b – **“This is the gospel that you heard”**
- So how do we continue to live with Jesus as Lord? Just as we began...
- Read 1:23 – **Do not be moved from the hope of the gospel!**

What or who are you thinking of when you think of Jesus, when you relate to Jesus? I hope you think first of Jesus as you first heard about him in the gospel.

- **Christ on the cross**, taking the sins of the world onto himself.
- **Christ in the tomb**, reconciling you to God through his own death.
- **Christ risen from the grave**, triumphing over death so that you might have eternal life with him!!

- If your first thought is of a Jesus who only wants you **to live according to his rules**, you have moved from the hope of the gospel!
- If your first thought is of a Jesus who only makes you **feel guilty because of your sin**, you have moved from the hope of the gospel!
- If your thoughts of Jesus are usually clouded by the **fear of ill health and death, or financial hardship, or hurtful relationships**, you have moved from the hope of the gospel.

So: How should we continue to live?

- **With Jesus as Lord**
- **With lives not moved from the hope of the gospel**

Question number 3:

- What happened when we heard the gospel, so that we could receive Jesus as Lord?
- Paul's covered this too: Read 1:3-5 – **The gospel brought about faith, love and hope in us!**
- So how do we continue to live? Just as we began...
- Read 1:6b – **Let the gospel bear it's fruit of faith, hope and love in you.**

- **How should we live?**
 - o **With Jesus as Lord**
 - o **With lives not moved from the hope of the gospel**
 - o **With the gospel bearing it's fruit in our lives**

Two friends from uni: Scott & Cameron

- Both received Jesus Christ as Lord upon hearing the gospel
- Cameron did not continue to live in Jesus as Lord, as far as my limited judgement could tell.
- Scott did continue to live for Jesus as Lord, with plenty of evidence, to this day.
- Both received Jesus as Lord, but only one continued

Will you? Will you continue to live for Jesus as Lord?

- Is he still the captain of the ship?
- Are you still firm in the hope of the gospel?
- Is the gospel bearing fruit in you?

2. Rooted, Built Up, Strengthened

Paul gives us 3 great, really vivid illustrations of this life **lived for Jesus as Lord**

1. Live like a tree “rooted in him” (verse 7)

Read: Jeremiah 17:7-8

The picture is a tree sending its roots **deep into the ground**. We're the tree, sending our roots deep into Jesus.

The illustration is beautiful:

- **Fuel for growth:** Comes from Jesus
- **Stability:** Comes from Jesus
- **Fruit (nutrients):** Comes from Jesus

What are the roots? We've been talking about them:

- **Living with Jesus as your Lord** – if he's the Captain of the ship your roots are in a secure place!
- **Learning and living in the hope of the gospel** – if your life is based on Learning about Jesus (last week) and living in the hope that comes from that – then your roots are going to be drawing all the water and nutrients you need from Jesus

So firstly, live like a tree rooted in Jesus.

2. Live like a house “Built up in him” (verse 7)

Read: Matthew 7:24-27

The picture now: **A house built on a solid foundation**. What's the foundation? Jesus! What's the house? Our life.

Another really clear illustration of what it means to **live for Jesus as your Lord**:

- As Jesus so clearly expressed in his parable, the quality of the house completely **depends on** the quality of the foundation.
- Any builder will tell you that the world's best house is a waste of time and money if it's not built on a solid foundation.
- Last week Garry told me that the engineering on the house he's currently building made him drill 4 metres piers of steel reinforced concrete for the footings – because it had to go down to the solid rock.
- If you found a nice piece of land, and started putting bricks on it, without laying a foundation... **it's gonna crack and crumble and fall.**

Live like a house “built up in him”. Jesus is our firm foundation.

- As we read in Matthew 7, Jesus said those who hear his words and put them into practice are building on a solid foundation.
- The Colossians heard the gospel, and put it into practice when they **received Jesus as Lord**. And so, responding to the gospel is the way to continue to live for Jesus as Lord.

3. “Strengthened in the faith as you were taught”

- The third picture is to be steady, firm and unwavering. (We've read this image already in Col 1:23)
- The opposite is to waver, to doubt, to get a bit wobbly.
- In what? Our faith. We all long for a steady, unwavering faith.
- So how can we be strengthened? How can we live for Jesus with an unwavering faith? **By continuing “as you were taught”.**
- It's the same encouragement again – continue as you started. You were taught the gospel, don't be moved from it.

We're thinking about Living for Jesus: How do we do it?

- **With Jesus as our Lord**
- **By continuing the way we started.**
- **Like a tree, rooted in him, like a house built up in him.**
- **Strengthened, firm and unwavering because of the hope of the gospel.**

Paul ends verse 7 with 3 unassuming words -- read verse 6 and 7 again. **It's easy to miss them, actually...**

3. Overflowing with Thankfulness

- Paul's getting very practical, giving us something concrete to put into practice.
- Do you find it unexpected that for practical application of these great truths we've been examining, Paul mentions **only one thing?**
- It turns out that of all the aspects of our Christian life and behaviour that will help us in living for Jesus, Paul emphasises **thankfulness? Why?**
- Paul loves thankfulness, actually. He mentions it over and over again throughout his letters.

It's because living for Jesus as Lord means **being thankful**

Thankfulness is a powerful thing:

- Thankfulness is the **most natural response** to the gospel!
- Thankfulness shapes the way we relate to God!
- Being thankful to Jesus forces us to remember that **he is the captain of the ship** and we are not!
- It forces us to remember the **wonderful news of gospel**, because that's what we are thankful for.
- Thankfulness highlights **God's goodness and grace**, and our need for his goodness and grace!
- Thankfulness to Jesus for the gospel helps us **avoid doubt and instability** by reminding us of our source of strength.

Thankfulness is the great antidote to lots of nasty types of behaviour.

- Thankfulness helps us **avoid pride** by reminding us of who we were without Jesus
- Thankfulness **gives us joy** because it reminds of so many good things about God and what he has done

- And to be frank, **thankful people are much more fun to be around** than ungrateful people! Do you want Lakeshore to be a church of thankful people?!

Turn to Phil 2:14. Paul contrasts those who complain and argue (the opposite of thankfulness) with those who shine like stars, holding out the word of life!! Complaining short circuits our ability to be a witness for Jesus, but being thankful is itself a witness of Jesus in you.

As young parents, we are teaching little kids to say, "Thank You". You don't always even notice it when the "thanks you" is absent, but it changes the whole tone of the situation and relationship when it is there.

When Kaitlyn gives me an unexpected "Thank you Daddy" after I get her a drink of milk, it changes the whole tone of the situation!

So we should pay attention when Paul gives just this one application to help us live for Jesus as Lord.

So Let it out!! Let your thankfulness overflow!

Never grow weary of praying:

- **"Jesus, thank you for the cross."**
- **"Thank you for dying for me."**
- **"Thank you for saving me".**
- **"Thank you that I have a home in heaven with you."**

As you live for **Jesus Christ as Lord**, not moved from the gospel, you will find yourself overflowing with thankfulness.

Living for Jesus means living for Jesus as Lord. **Jesus is the Captain of the Ship!**

Just as you first received Jesus as Lord, **continue to live** with Jesus as Lord.

Do not be moved from the hope of the gospel!

May each person here might be like the tree planted by streams of water, rooted in Jesus.

May each person here might be like a house built on the rock of Jesus.

May each person here might be firm and unwavering in their faith.

And overflowing with thankfulness

Prayer: Jesus, our Lord, you are the captain of the ship, and we are your people!! We long to live for you, our Lord. Thank you that you have made a way for us to live for you, through the gospel. Help us, we pray, continue to live for you just as we first received you as our Lord.