

**The 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
**“The 12 Keys to Spiritual Maturity ~ Key #11: Living Radically”**  
**Colossians 2:6-15**

Radical often =

It has a \_\_\_\_\_ connotation, and has come to =

*Radicalis* =

To be radical = to be rooted in the \_\_\_\_\_ and to be \_\_\_\_\_.

**#1. Living Radically means making spiritual \_\_\_\_\_.**

We become Christians in an \_\_\_\_\_ when we receive Jesus Christ as Lord; however, Christian growth is a \_\_\_\_\_. The reality is, in the Christian life, we never stand \_\_\_\_\_—we either go forward or we gradually slip backward.

**4 PICTURES OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND MATURITY**

• \_\_\_\_\_.

Rooted = *rhizoo* =

We need to go \_\_\_\_\_ with Christ in order to find the \_\_\_\_\_ we need to flourish and to withstand the storms of life.

“He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.” (Jeremiah 17:8)

**Where do you find nourishment?**

**Are you thriving in your faith or withering on the vine.**

• \_\_\_\_\_.

Build up = *epoikodomeo* =

Conversion isn't an \_\_\_\_\_, but a \_\_\_\_\_. God doesn't want us to stop with conversion; but longs for us to construct our lives with \_\_\_\_\_ materials.

The foundation that we're building on, is the apostles and prophets—Jesus Christ being the chief \_\_\_\_\_.

“...you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” (1 Peter 2:5)

**Are you in this process of building? What foundation are you building on?**

• \_\_\_\_\_.

Established = *bebaioo* =

We can be confident that God is faithful and will \_\_\_\_\_ on His promises. Because of this, we're free to do our part, which is to be faithful disciples of God's

\_\_\_\_\_.

The more \_\_\_\_\_ we are to God's Word, the more \_\_\_\_\_ our faith will be.

**How established is your faith?**

**How committed are you to discipleship and the study of God's Word?**

• \_\_\_\_\_.

Abounding = *perisseuo* =

Overflowing with \_\_\_\_\_ is the appropriate response to being rooted, built up, and established in Christ.

“O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever.” (Psalm 107:1)

Gratitude is born in the hearts of those who take the time to \_\_\_\_\_ past mercies. If we do don't feel very thankful, it's probably because we've taken your eyes off of Jesus and put them on \_\_\_\_\_ and our \_\_\_\_\_.

**What role does gratitude play in your life? How thankful are you?**

These 4 images call us to Christian \_\_\_\_\_. They also show us how we can \_\_\_\_\_ the enemy and not be led astray

**How grounded, growing, grateful are you?**

**#2. Living radically means watching out for spiritual \_\_\_\_\_.**

“See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.” (Colossians 2:8)

See to it = *blepo* =

The implication is that we're \_\_\_\_\_ for what happens to us spiritually.

Captive = *sulagogeo* =

The false teachers in Colossae were doing more than just tricking the Colossians, they were \_\_\_\_\_ from the truth of Christ.

**2 TACTICS OF THE FALSE TEACHERS**

• \_\_\_\_\_.

*Philosophi* =

• \_\_\_\_\_.

*Apate* =

The problem with this false teaching was that it lacked \_\_\_\_\_. It wasn't intended to \_\_\_\_\_ people to God, but only acted as a belief system governing their attitudes and actions; allowing them to do whatever they wanted. It appealed purely to the \_\_\_\_\_ and not to the \_\_\_\_\_.  
Empty =

### WHY IT WAS EMPTY AND DECEITFUL

• **It was based on human \_\_\_\_\_.**

*Paradosis* =

Just because people have believed something and handed it down through the years doesn't make it \_\_\_\_\_. In fact, history has shown that tradition often serves to perpetuate \_\_\_\_\_. While it's not wrong to have church traditions that remind us of our godly heritage, we need to be careful not to make them equal or superior to the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

• **It was based on the \_\_\_\_\_ spirits of this world.**

Paul is referring to the false teaching about \_\_\_\_\_, heavenly, bodies, and \_\_\_\_\_.

The false teachers weren't asking the Colossians to \_\_\_\_\_ Christ, but rather to make Him part of this new system, which would remove Him from His rightful place of \_\_\_\_\_. Paul asks the Colossians why they would follow this false teaching when they already had \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ.

“For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body. So you also are complete through your union with Christ, who is the head over every ruler and authority.” (Colossians 2:9-10)

When we put our faith in Christ alone, and are born again into the family of God, we are born \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ. and we are complete in Him.

“For from his fulness we have all received grace upon grace.” (John 1:17)

**How susceptible are you to worldly philosophy and empty deceit?**

**Are you complete in Christ or are you looking for something more?**

**#3. Living radically means embracing our spiritual \_\_\_\_\_.**

• **We are \_\_\_\_\_ in Him.**

“In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by putting off the

body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ...” (Colossians 2:11)

It isn't necessary for believers to submit to circumcision because we have already experienced a \_\_\_\_\_ circumcision. What the \_\_\_\_\_ could not do, Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ for us in His death and resurrection.

• **We are \_\_\_\_\_ in Him.**

“...when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.” (Col 2:12)

When we're saved, we're immediately baptized by the \_\_\_\_\_ into the body of Christ and identified with Him.

• We are \_\_\_\_\_ Him.

“And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross.” (Colossians 2:12-13)

When Jesus shed His blood for us, He also \_\_\_\_\_ the huge debt that was against us because of our \_\_\_\_\_ to God's holy law. He also took the law that condemned us and set it aside so that we're no longer \_\_\_\_\_ to it.

• **We are \_\_\_\_\_ in Him.**

“He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.” (Colossians 2:15)

Jesus stripped Satan of his \_\_\_\_\_; exposed his \_\_\_\_\_; and won a \_\_\_\_\_ victory, returning to glory in a great triumphal procession to His Father's side

We \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus' victory over the enemy. As we claim this victory in our lives we're set free from the enemy's \_\_\_\_\_, are able to walk in faith, and not be easily \_\_\_\_\_ by lies and deceit.

**Are you using all of the spiritual resources that are available to you?**

**Are you sharing in Christ's victory?**

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**Is living radically a key on your spiritual key chain?**

**How would you describe your Christian walk?**

**Are you living out what you profess to believe?**