

:00 (6) Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith --- just as you were taught --- abounding in thanksgiving.

(8) 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!

(9) For in Him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in Him, who is the Head of all rule and authority.

(11) In Him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hand, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised with Him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

(13) And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our trespasses by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This He set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in Him.

Think on these things:

- 1) "Walking" in the Lord (v.6) refers to daily living as a Christian. "Abounding in thanksgiving" (v.7) arises from spiritual stability and recognizing God's engagement in life everywhere. Being well-rooted brings to mind Psalm 1:1-3. Now consider Acts 20:32; 2 Timothy 2:15 and 3:16. From these verses and your own thoughts, share some ideas on becoming "established in the faith."

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- 2) Paul's concern is that believers might be deceived – beguiled or duped – by competing ideas and existing religious traditions emphasized in our world. The reference to "elemental spirits" in v.8 links these ideas to demonic origin and/or influence. Can you think of some worldly ideas or traditions that might lead to people abandoning their faith in Christ? One example is 1 Timothy 6:10, others might be Darwinism or Bahai teachings. What is Paul's admonition in v.8a?

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Admonition? (2 Timothy 4:3-4) \_\_\_\_\_

- 3) Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ in the flesh (v.9). Consider John 1:14 and Philippians 2:6-7.

- 4) Which ruler or authority on earth is greater than Jesus? Consider Philippians 2:9-11.

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- 5) Circumcision is a “covenant” confirmation for the Jews (Genesis 17:3-14). Here in vs. 11-12, as also in Romans 9:6-8, we learn a broader application of being circumcised --- and it now includes females! 😊 Referred to as the Circumcision of Christ, a deeper purpose is disclosed to identify the true descendants of Abraham. Define what this new circumcision is all about, and also how it is explained through baptism. Consider also Romans 2:29 and 6:11-14.

Christ’s Circumcision? \_\_\_\_\_  
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Baptism Reveals? \_\_\_\_\_  
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- 6) Before we are saved, how does Paul describe us in v.13a?

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- 7) Do you remember Jesus speaking to Nicodemus in John 3:3? What does Paul say God does for us in salvation (v.13)?

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- 8) Describe the picture language of v.14 expressing how God deals with the “list” of our sins (“debts”) each of us has accumulated according to the written code (NIV). Does this visual help you to see that your sins --- and my sins --- put Jesus on the cross?

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- 9) Crucifixion is a humiliating and painful execution, but it was God the Father’s plan all along. Jesus endured that public shame to save the world. The Father used the “result” of Jesus’ sacrifice to reconcile the world to Himself, and to put worldly rulers and authorities to shame (v.15). What does 1 Corinthians 2:1, 8, tell us about earth’s rulers?

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People and situations I want to pray for this week: