

Col 2:6-7  
Salvation changes everything  
09/27/2020

Open your Bibles, please to Colossians 2, I will read from verse 1....but we will spend nearly all of our time in verses 6 and 7

For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face, <sup>2</sup>that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, <sup>3</sup>in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. <sup>4</sup>I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments. <sup>5</sup>For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ.

**Alive in Christ**

<sup>6</sup>Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, <sup>7</sup>rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

<sup>8</sup>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.

We keep reading larger sections of Scripture than we are dealing with because I want us to continue to see that this letter like all of Scripture is to be seen in a context instead of singling out a verse or two at a time. We are only going to look at verses 6 and 7 today..... but notice that 6 and 7 are sandwiched between not being deluded by plausible arguments in verse 4, and not being taken captive to philosophy and human tradition in verse 8.....The truths stated in verses 6 and 7 are the answer to what is before it..... and the truths stated in verses 6 and 7 are the answers to what is coming after it.....

But before I jump into this text, I want to back track a little and explain where I am going, and what we will be attempting to do in the weeks ahead. I want to make sure I have been clear.... And I am not sure I have been....

I am a little concerned that I may have communicated that based on what I said last week that some might have left here believing that having a Christmas tree was wrong..... having a Christmas tree is not wrong..... so let me explain...

Last Sunday, I introduced us to some of the false teaching that is going on in Colossae.....I said that in chapter 2, verse 4, that Paul was struggling on their behalf to make the word of God fully known, so that no one in the church would be "deluded by plausible arguments."

I defined these plausible arguments as deceptive speech or speech that is intended to deceive someone that is constructed in a way that sounds very persuasive and very convincing but it is not true. And it is these false ideas that seem like they might be right..... that are confusing the Colossians.....

Now, what I should have pointed out last week is that Paul mentions that there are false or deceptive ideas that are influencing those in the church, but at this point in the letter, he has not defined what the ideas are.....the specifics about what he is talking about is coming later.

In order to be more clear, notice the hand out in your bulletin

Chapter 2 verse 4 frames the rest of the chapter..... Don't be confused by false ideas.... don't be sucked in to believe something that sounds true, but is really false....."let no one delude you with plausible arguments."

Then, he gives examples of what he means in 3 separate verses throughout the rest of the chapter....As the chapter goes on, he gets more specific about some of the false ideas that the people in this church were beginning to believe.....

Now, I am still not going to explain all of these, yet... I am saving that for when we come to the exact verses..... but after he says in verse 4, "that no one may delude you...." notice the command in verse 8... "see to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and so on...." ..In verse 16, "therefore, let no one pass judgment on you" in regards to the things mentioned.... and, in verse 18, "let no one disqualify you by insisting on all of these outward spiritual things....asceticism, worship of angels, or visions.....etc....."

Again, I don't want to explain all of these yet, but you can't miss these commands "that no one delude you, that no one take you captive, let no one pass judgment on you, let no one disqualify you....."

There are all kinds of false ideas, wrong thinking, wrong views, unbiblical views circulating around this church, and Paul is adamant about their not being swept away by them.....

And, notice Paul's conclusion because it is here where he tells us why we should not be deluded by these plausible arguments..... in verse 23.....

"These (all of these false ideas) have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh. <sup>1</sup>"

All of these false ideas have the appearance of wisdom.....at first glance, they seem helpful for you in the Christian life.... They all seem like they will help you to grow and mature in Christ....avoiding certain foods, living a life of self denial, angel worship, seeking visions.....

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1 [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Col 2:23). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

they seem to promote religion, but look at that last phrase..... “but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh. <sup>2</sup>”

They will never help in your battle against sin.... They will not help you remain faithful.....They will not help in your desire to become more Christ like, they will not help you in the sanctification process.....

It is important that we understand what these are, and we will get there..... and it is important that we understand that they are of no help....in fact, they draw people away from Christ, not toward....

Instead explaining all of these before I come to them in our study, , I just have broadly said that the church was influenced by the views that are in the culture instead of the Bible..... that there has been a melding of Jewish law and traditions, Greek philosophy, man centered self-help, angel worship, visions etc..... and these views and ideas were drawing them away from Christ and His word...

But, what I have been trying to focus on, is that generally speaking, we may not be facing the same things as this church in the first century..... clearly, their struggles are not our struggles, but we are equally susceptible to false ideas in our century.....false ideas that make us feel spiritual, make us feel more religious....but have no value in conforming us to Christ....

And, this is when I used the illustration of the Christmas tree..... to show that sometimes we are influenced to believe something false by the misuse of Scripture....

And, what I attempted to do was give you a plausible argument for not having a Christmas tree based on the misuse of Jeremiah 10..... but I am not sure I said enough to help you see that using Jeremiah 10 to support not having a tree is a real misuse of Scripture.

And I want to clarify that Jeremiah 10 has nothing to do with Christmas trees..... it is a passage about carving idols out of trees, attaching value to them by putting precious metal on them, treating them as gods, worshipping them, bowing before them, praying to them, and trusting in them....

If you were confused at all by my misuse of Jeremiah 10 and for a moment you were thinking of not having a tree..... let that be a lesson of how easy it is to build a plausible argument from a misuse of the Bible that can create confusion in the church.....

Please put up your tree, as we will in the church, and decorate it to the glory of God! People have used that passage to say that having a tree is an idol, and it is a total misuse of a passage of Scripture.....

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2 [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Col 2:23). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

And, though I may have not been as clear as I could have been, I am really thankful that we are starting this conversation now because as we get deeper into Colossians 2, the Christmas tree illustration fits right in.... You can rewrite verse 16 by stating, "Therefore, let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink or with regard to how you celebrate Christmas?"

There was a strong push in this church to putting rules and regulations on people in regards to their outward activity that by following their man made rules, they thought it would make them more spiritual.... ..And if you were not following their rules, obviously, you would come under someone's scrutiny.....

Some, today, do this with Halloween.... Some will say, "I don't have anything to do with Halloween, it is a satanic holiday." Others will say, "I love Halloween, my kids or grand kids dress up like the Avengers, or Ninja turtles, or the characters from Frozen...and they get so excited about trick or treating." Who is more spiritual? Who is more righteous? The one who participates or the one who does not?

These are some of the questions we will be coming to in the weeks ahead....Personally, I have lived on both sides of that coin...

And, when you go to Paul's conclusion, I can hear him say, "You should not let anyone pass judgment on you about Christmas trees or trick or treating...because not having a tree.... or not having a pumpkin on your porch might have the appearance of wisdom, and self made religion..... but has no value in stopping the indulgences of the flesh... has no value in conforming you to Christ, has no value you in your struggle against sin.... Has no value in becoming more Christ like....

We will get in to this in far more depth in the weeks ahead.....

**I hope that gives a little clarity on last week, and also helps you see where we are going...**

As we look at verses 6 and 7 today, since Paul begins with the word **therefore**, he is wanting us to go back and understand what he already said before we come to what he is saying now.... Paul uses the word therefore 68 times in his 13 epistles, and it is nearly always a summary statement for what was already said..... as it is here...

In this case, some commentators believe that we just finished the introduction to the letter, and Paul is summarizing all that was previously said, with a new emphasis, now on how what was said and believed should be effecting their lives..... The "therefore" an indication that he is now going to tell us how to live in light of what we know to be true....

In nearly every epistle, Paul builds upon the truth, so we understand what we are and all of the benefits we have in Christ before he goes on to tell us how to live in light of that truth....

It is what I like to refer to as, belief then behavior... or faith then practice.....First we must know before we go and do.....

We see this so beautifully in verse 6,

“Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him.....”

everything Paul was talking about in chapter 1 was about receiving Him as Lord..... From the noticeable transformation that took place in their lives after they heard, understood, and learned the good news about Christ from Epaphras in chapter 1 verse 7.... to the understanding of all that God had done for them through redemption and forgiveness in verse 14.....

to the understanding beginning in verse 15 that Jesus is God, and man, and the creator and sustainer, is head over all rulers and powers in heaven and on earth.... And that he reconciled all things to Himself through the cross.....and then in 21, now bringing these hostile men and women to stand before God through Christ righteousness, so that they are now holy and blameless before Him.....

And, then coming to the realization and understanding of the wonderful mystery of Christ for the Gentiles and Christ in all believers.....and that there are treasures to have because of Christ, and hidden treasure to continue to seek after one trusts in Christ..... Those in the Colossian church who have come to these conclusions about Jesus are those who have received Christ Jesus as Lord....

Receiving Jesus as Lord or putting your faith in Him is something rational.....you are trusting in and believing something you know to be true.....For faith to take place, there are some who say it involves 3 things: Knowledge, agreement, and trust.

Knowledge that would include the truth about our sin, and Christ being the only Savior for our sin.

But, knowledge is not enough.... Once you know, you must agree with God in regards to what you know. By agreeing with Him, you are personally acknowledging that you are a sinner, separated from God, and Christ is a great savior reconciling you to God.

And, then trust.....You know.... And you agree.... Now what do you do? Surrender your life..... commit your life.....give up your life to follow Him... to know Him, love Him, live for Him, and glorify Him....

So let me say right up front, that Paul’s use of the word “Receiving” here is not referring to "receiving Jesus into your heart....." or "asking Jesus into your heart." Those phrases, can offer a watered down version of Christ to someone who doesn't fully understand salvation, and can give a false assurance .....

The one who has received Christ Jesus as Lord, is the one who understands who Christ is and what He has done.....

In some circles, there has been an effort to evangelize people with just a couple of questions, then a simple prayer..... "Do you want to go to heaven?" Answer, "Yes, what do I need to do?" "receive Jesus into your heart." How do I do that?" Pray after me, "Father, I know I need Jesus in my heart to go to heaven. Please come in to my heart today." And, often times, if a person prays that prayer, there are some that would immediately say that they are now a Christian believer because they received Jesus into their heart.

However, receiving Jesus into your heart or inviting him into your heart is not the language of the New Testament.....and not at all in the preaching of the apostles.....In fact the closest phrase in the book of Acts that I could find to inviting Jesus into your heart is in Acts 16, and if you will turn there for a moment, this might be helpful..... Paul and Silas were traveling together, they were at a river side on the Sabbath, meeting with several women from the city of Philippi for prayer .....Though they were there for prayer, Paul also had a chance to expound the Word of God to them.....i will read from verse 14

"One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord **opened her heart** to pay attention to what was said by Paul. <sup>15</sup>And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us."

Now, it does not say that she received Jesus into her heart or she invited Jesus into her heart, it says that God opened her heart, so that she could hear God's Word as proclaimed by Paul.....That is so important..... faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God..... and it was the proclamation of truth after God opened her heart that brought her to faith in Christ....

She believed or received this body of truth that Paul proclaimed to her.....it was not an abstract, "just pray to receive Jesus into your heart....." NO... Paul spoke, Paul preached, Paul declared truth.....and she received this body of truth that Paul proclaimed, she understood what was said about her sin and Christ the Savior..... she put her faith and trust in Christ, and God saved her..... and, I don't want to miss the immediate evidence of her conversion.....she immediately wanted to serve, she immediately wanted to help.....Salvation changed her life..... to put it in a way that has a Colossian ring to it, we could say, "She began walking in him....." doing the things Jesus would do.....

The word received, as we go back to Colossians 2:6 has to do with receiving instruction or receiving a body of truth... this is what I meant by the Knowledge I mentioned earlier..... and in

this case, the knowledge or the body of truth you are receiving is specifically about the Lord Jesus Christ.... specifically about who He is, what he has done, and why that matters.....specifically refers to, as I already said, everything that has been said so far.....

It is another way to say that these men and women have known or understood the truth.... And, subsequently agreed with these truths; and this has moved them to Christ, to put their faith in Christ.... they have believed the bad news about themselves and the good news about Christ, or, we can say they have embraced or believed the gospel.....

...this is the only time this exact phrase is used in the entire Bible..... so it is worth noting and looking at more carefully.....The use of the title Christ is confirming that He is the promised Messiah that the prophets declared would come..... Christ in the New Testament is Messiah in the Old Testament.....and when Paul declares him to be Christ, he is making mention of the fact that He is the only one who can reconcile us back to God.....the only one who could save us..... the only one who can deliver us.....

Paul's reference to Jesus is clearly a reference to his humanity.....By using his birth name Jesus, Paul is saying that Jesus had a physical body, he had a physical mother, he came into the world in a physical way, and he was like us in every respect.....yet without sin.... It is a reminder that he was hungry, he was thirsty, he was tired, he had physical limitations..... it is also a reminder that since he had a physical body because he was truly human, that he died a real physical death on a real physical cross and shed real physical blood.....the name Jesus is a reference to him being truly man

And, thirdly, his reference to the title Lord is clearly demonstrating his deity.....We know that He is human..... we know that He is the Messiah, the One to come..... and it is equally important for us to understand that the reference to being Lord is a reference to Jesus being God..... the NT word for Lord is used in the OT for the name Yahweh; and without question, here, Paul is confirming that Christ is God...Christ must be worshipped.....Christ must be bowed to, Christ must be obeyed.....

receiving Christ Jesus the Lord is a complete death to self..... you are repenting or turning away from your sin..... turning from anything that violates his word.....giving up the things that you hold so dear.....He is your Lord or master, so he makes the rules, and they are laid out in His Word the Bible.... So, since He is Lord, you have give up you immorality, pornography, deceit, filthy language, greed, drunkenness, self-righteousness, pride, and lying.....

You are able to do this not by self effort.... but he has regenerated you, fills you with His spirit, and you are in Him and He is in you.....and gives you a new heart with new desires to give up every thing and follow Him.

.you see, you are following him.....obeying Him..... He is your Lord.....

and we know this is true by the next short phrase, "so, walk in him." The Word walk can be translated live, or behave.... But the word walking in Him is a metaphor for stepping only in the places he would step....or stepping with Him... demonstrates your obedience to His Lordship.

you are not stepping where you want to step, and you are not out of step with him..... if you are walking in him, it is like you are the 3 year old standing on Jesus' feet.... Like your kids and grand kids like to stand on your feet.....Jesus walks, and you are going where He wants.... You are on His feet, going only where he leads and directs...doing what he wants.... you are just along for the ride..... He is Lord, so He directs your every move...

have you received him as Lord and are you walking in Him? Are you a new creature in Christ.....have the old things passed away? Have all things become new? Is your inner most desire to obey Him, to please Him, to walk as he walks? Is He your Lord, over your time, talent, your treasure or walled, your work schedule, what you watch, how you talk?

If you have received Him as Lord, then He is in you and you are in Him.... And He gives you the desire to obey....

In chapter 1 verse 10, Paul prays that they would "walk in a manner that is worthy of the Lord," And then he defines what he means..... "to please Him in every respects." That is what walking in Him means. Pleasing God in all we think and all we do...not perfectly.... We still do sin..... but the desire is there..... and the conviction of the Spirit is there when we don't....

Now, if we are not sure what walking in Him means, Paul actually goes on and gives 4 descriptions of a person who has received Christ as Lord, and who is walking in Him.....they are listed in the passage.....

Those who walk in Christ are first of all rooted in Him, 2ndly they are built up in Christ..... thirdly, they are established in the faith.....and lastly, they are abounding in thanksgiving..... the first 3 of these kind of build upon each other.....

Those who walk in Christ are rooted in Christ..... metaphors are so helpful, aren't they? One commentator shows that Christ as the one we are rooted in is a "lifegiving soil and sustaining foundation<sup>3</sup>" ..... the idea of rooted communicates a past action..... when you received Christ as Lord, you were rooted in Him.....you were placed in Christ.....These metaphors can be seen in theological terms as well.....rooted is justifying faith..... ..... then built up in him has the idea of

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3 Maurer, C. (1964-). [ρίζα, ριζόω, ἐκρίζω](#). G. Kittel, G. W. Bromiley, & G. Friedrich (Eds.), *Theological dictionary of the New Testament* (electronic ed., Vol. 6, p. 990). Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans.

continuing action and it correlates with sanctifying faith.....and our establishment in the faith has the idea of glorification, or preserving faith.

Being rooted in Christ is similar to what John states about abiding in the Vine in John 15..... the roots of our Christian faith are literally in Christ Jesus..... so we gain all of our strength, power, nutrients, help, sustenance, and life from him..... You gardeners know that where your plants or flowers are rooted in is the single most important part of them growing correctly.....this has the idea that you are rooted in or planted in life giving soil.....

and since you are rooted in Christ, your growth is guaranteed because what you are rooted in is the perfect, holy, righteous, all powerful, all mighty, all glorious Son of God.....you are IN HIM.....and He is in you

Paul moves from an agricultural metaphor to one of building..... you are built up in him.....and this verb tense is not describing a one time event..... rather it describes a continuous action.... it describes a process and an action that takes place over and over and over and is never fully completed.....it means to strengthen, to make more able, to build up..... so not only are we rooted in Christ, we are built or strengthened or made more able by Him..... because we are in him.....this is part of the ongoing sanctification process

If being rooted has something to do with vitality, where we gain our nutrients, our energy, our the sap by which we live..... the being built up has to do with being solid, unwavering, and unmoving..... if roots are relatively invisible, mostly under ground, and rarely seen..... the idea that we are being built up is above ground, noticeable, something the whole world can see.... our being built up in him means that when the world looks at us, we should reflect the builder, our lives should reflect the architect.....

what do we really look like to the outside world? To our neighbors and co-workers? Friends, family members? Are we reflecting Christ as individuals and as a congregation to the outside world?

If we are walking in Him, rooted in Him, and built up in Him..... our lives should reflect this.....how we talk, how we interact, how we keep short sin accounts... how we are quick to forgive and ask for forgiveness..... all of these things should be the ongoing part of our Christian lives....

Our lives, how we live, how we interact with others is the first part of the gospel others see..... how we live is what opens the door to tell others about Christ....

we are walking like Christ, rooted in Christ, and looking like Christ.....

From here Paul moves to a 3rd description of someone who is walking in Christ, and that is he is established in the faith.....I said earlier that being rooted is a reference to justifying faith, the beginning of the Christian life..... being built up is part of the progress we make in the Christian life and it is an allusion to the sanctification process....

And if these first two are references to our justification and sanctification, then being established in the faith is part of our preservation that leads to our ultimate glorification.....because not only does this word mean to receive more inner strength and to have greater firmness in character or attitude, it also carries the idea of being sustained to the very end.....

In I Corinthians chapter 1 verse 7 Paul states,

“as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>8</sup> who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. <sup>4</sup>”

The word sustain is the same word used here..... The Lord Jesus will establish or sustain you to the end.....why? because God is faithful.....he who rooted you in Him..... who builds you up and strengthens you in him..... will sustain you, keep you, hang on to you, give you the grace to persevere to the end..... because he who called you is faithful.....

So, the one who is walking in Him is rooted in Him, is being built up in Him and is established or sustained or kept by Him.... justified, sanctified, and one day glorified..... because of HIM

And, before we move to our 4th description, notice that little parenthetical phrase, "just as you were taught." That speaks volumes doesn't it..... weren't you wondering how you are to be rooted? how you are to be built up? how you were to be established and remain established in the faith? it comes through instruction.... it comes through teaching..... it comes through the faithful study, proclamation, meditation and commitment to God's word..... both what we were taught that brought us into the faith..... and what we are taught as we remain in the faith,.....

And when Paul is speaking here in Colossian 2:7, there is no doubt that he is referring back to his dear friend and comrade in the ministry..... and he is saying, remember what you were taught, by Epaphras, don't waver from the foundation, don't get off..... don't be fooled by plausible argument.... don't be swayed by manmade traditions..... don't be enticed by anyone telling you about a higher knowledge.....

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<sup>4</sup> *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*. (2001). (1 Co 1:7–9). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society.

NO Epaphras laid the foundation of faith alone by grace alone through Christ alone..... you don't need to add anything to that proclamation..... continue in what you have been taught and continue to be built up in Christ through continued instruction....

beloved, I can't emphasize this enough.....remember the heartbeat of Paul's soul is that these believers would know God, live for God, then continue to know more of God..... a genuine knowledge of god only comes from His Word.....

all of these plausible arguments look so appealing..... we would love to see visions.....angel worship means there is something tangible to trust.... Denying myself certain foods might make me feel spiritual....

And, Paul is continuing to bring us back to the basics.....what we commonly call the normal means of Grace....the things we have been taught.

Beginning with church attendance, apostolic teaching, prayer, fellowship, baptism, Lord's supper... we need to constantly be anchored in the basics. Nothing has changed.... There are people in the church looking for an experience, a quick fix, a quick way to holiness..... they want something external, visions... a list of rules to follow.....

And, Paul is saying.....you need more of God's Word... which means more of Christ.....Last night some of the folks involved in music watched a conference about singing in the church.... And the 4 main topics were read the bible, pray the Bible, preach the Bible, and sing the Bible.....this is where our teaching comes from....

This book is the only thing that will keep us from all of the false teaching, false ideas and convincing arguments that are circulating around us..... and the Sunday School song is still true....

immerse yourself in this book..... read it, meditate on it, listen to it, hear it preached.... in it is everything we need for life and godliness..... in it is everything we need to know about our Lord Jesus Christ..... in it is all we need to know about God and His marvelous plan for humanity.....

it will take you roots deeper into Christ..... it will build your building stronger in Christ..... and it will establish your faith even firmer in Christ.....

then, finally, Paul states that those who have received Christ Jesus the Lord and are walking in Him are or should be abounding in thanksgiving.

And, all I can say is why wouldn't we be? did you hear the indictment against you? it wasn't pretty....you are unqualified to be with the saints in light..... you are trapped and in bondage to sin..... you have no hope to ever be in Christ' eternal kingdom..... you need someone to

purchase you..... you are a sinner who needs forgiveness..... you are alienated from god, you are hostile toward God, and you do evil things against God.....

This is the indictment, this is the verdict, this is what Paul means in Ephesians 2 when he states that we are by nature children of wrath.....because of this indictment, we deserve wrath and judgment, and banishment from His presence....we deserve hell, and God's eternal judgment.....and, there is no escape from our sentence.....

And, though this is our indictment, for no reason except divine grace and divine mercy..... according to chapter 1 verse 12, He qualified us, delivered us, transferred us, redeemed us, and forgiven us.....and then he goes on in verse 20 and following us to tell us that he reconciled us, made peace with God for us, and he cleaned us up..... made us holy, blameless and above reproach in order to present us to His Father....

So, let me ask again..... why wouldn't we be thankful? Why wouldn't we be abounding in thanksgiving? Save from sin..... rescued from God's wrath..... delivered from Hell..... Christ died in your place.....

We have every reason as Christian believers to be abounding in thanksgiving, overflowing with thanksgiving, oozing with thanksgiving.....It doesn't mean we are walking around with a silly triumphalistic grin on our face..... it doesn't mean we will not suffer loss and tragedy in this sin cursed world..... but it does mean that in our most grave circumstances, we have the awareness that there is a future, there is a hope, and a final rescue when we see Christ face to face.....

I wonder if everyone in here understands the gospel the way I have put it forward this morning..... knowledge, agreement, trust...

I wonder if you have fully comprehended that salvation is about understanding that your sin has separated you from God..... and that simply being a fairly outwardly good, church going person will not atone for your sin.....

Do you understand that your sin has alienated you from god? And are you prepared to admit you are a sinner and repent or turn from or give up your sin? Do you understand that Christ is the only answer to the sin you are admitting to? do you understand that he died in your place and rose again on your behalf? And are you prepared to make him Lord of your life..... to give up everything and follow Him?

Some of you, I hope are abounding in thanksgiving because you know what you were saved from, and the glorious hope you now have in Christ..... others, if God is drawing you to Himself this morning, if he is opening your heart like he did Lydia's in Acts 16, then

acknowledge your sin to him, ask Him to cleanse you, ask him to reconcile you, ask Him to save you through the death of His Son..... and receive him as Lord.....and so walk in him, be rooted and built up in Him, and have our faith established in Him.....and abound in thanksgiving to Him