

What Now?

Bible Study – Based on Navigator Study “Clarifying Your Commitment”

2020-08-19

Pastor Sharon Tidd

Read and reflect on Colossians 2:1-15. (If you have time, read the entire book.) Then prayerfully focus on verses 6 and 7. Reflect on key words and phrases. What do they seek to convey? What do they emphasize/highlight? Reflect on the different word pictures used. What do they seek to teach?

Based on your knowledge of the Bible, how does a person “receive” Jesus Christ? Why is receiving Christ important? What comes from receiving Him?

Reflect on how you personally received Jesus Christ -- your personal “salvation story”? Can you articulate it in 2-3 minutes? Take time to ponder it, with thanksgiving, and write it out now. (If you have not yet received Jesus Christ, you can do that by praying the prayer offered at the end of this study.)

Read and reflect on the following passages: Colossians 1:15-20; 2:9-10; 2:15. What do these passages teach about Jesus Christ? What does it mean to speak of Him as Lord? How important is this to your salvation? What does it mean for you to call Jesus your Lord? How does it impact your life day-to-day?

Colossians 2:6 encourages believers to “continue to live in Him (Christ Jesus)”. What does this say to you? What does it mean to ‘continue to live in Him’? What would it mean to not live in Him? Reflect on the following statements. Do these summarize what it means, to you, to ‘continue to live in Him’?

- a. Learning about Christ, recognizing who He is, and what He has done for us.

- b. Repenting of my sinful attitudes and actions.
- c. Putting my faith in Him in every circumstance of my life.
- d. Submitting to Him as Lord.

Are there any areas of your life where work is needed to ensure that you are 'continuing to live in Him'? If so, what steps can you take?

Colossians 2:7 encourages believers to be "rooted/grounded" (past tense) and "built up" (continuous present tense) in Him too. What do these words speak to you? What does being 'rooted' mean? What is involved in being continually 'built up'? In what areas do you need a deeper, stronger rooting? In what areas do you need to be built up?

The verse goes on to speak about being 'strengthened in the faith'. If you are not feeling strong in faith, what might be lacking? What could you do about that? It also speaks about being 'overflowing with thankfulness'. If you are not feeling thankful, what might be lacking? What could you do about that?

Read and reflect on John 15:1-17. In this passage Jesus speaks about the secret to continual spiritual growth. What does He suggest? How are we to keep on growing and being built up in the faith? What happens when we fail to keep on growing? What comfort can you take from His teaching in this passage? Is there anything here that convicts you? If so, what steps do you need to take?

Read and reflect on Ephesians 4:11-16. What God-given resource is available to keep you rooted and built up in your faith? How can you tap into this resource? How effectively are you doing that? How are you contributing as a resource for others? What happens when believers fail to tap into this resource?

Read and reflect on Acts 20:28-32. According to this passage, what God-given resource is available to keep you rooted and built up in your faith? How have Christian leaders (teachers, pastors) helped you grow in your faith? Take time now to thank God for their ministry. What are leaders responsible for, according to this passage? Why are they a vital part of the church?

Christian leaders will fail you sometimes, but what God-given resource that cannot fail is promised in Acts 20:32. How are you tapping into that resource? How can you tap into that resource more effectively?

A Prayer to Receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour:

Dear Jesus, Thank You for Your love for me and Your willingness to die in my place. I know that I have wronged you and I pray that You will forgive my sins and cleanse me. I want to be Your loving and obedient child. I acknowledge you as Lord of all. I pray that Your Spirit would help and teach me to walk in faith with You each day. I welcome You as Lord and Saviour of my life. Amen.

After praying this prayer, keep on growing in your faith by:

1. Reading/Studying the Bible. Through it you will learn about God and His steadfast love for you. (On-line apps are available!)
2. Connecting with a local church where you can receive teaching in the Word of God and be involved with other believers who are following Jesus too.
3. Praying daily – talking/conversing with God about your life, your worries, your struggles, your joys. He will, through His Spirit, whisper the assurance of His love and acceptance as you commune with Him. He will also teach you how to follow Him faithfully.