

Rooted in Christ

Scripture: Colossians 2:6-7

October 4, 2026 - Week 1 of Sermon Series: *"A People Made Ready"*

Theme: "I AM ROOTED." - Christ is my foundation.

Key Sentence: *Before God prepares us for what is ahead, God first calls us to be deeply rooted in Christ.*

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, today we begin our October sermon series, "A People Made Ready." During the last several months, we have been on a journey together. In July, we reflected on the Church - who we are as God's people. In August, we considered stewardship - everything we have belongs to God. In September, we focused on participation: *"I AM PRESENT. I AM GROWING. I AM INFLUENCING. I AM PARTICIPATING."*

Now October asks another important question: How is God preparing us for what comes next? Soon Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas will fill our calendars. But before we prepare our homes and schedules, perhaps God wants to prepare our hearts, our faith, and our spiritual lives.

Paul writes in Colossians 2:6-7, *"As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith... abounding in thanksgiving."*

"I AM ROOTED. Christ is my foundation."

When we look at a strong tree in autumn, we notice what is above the ground - the color, branches, and leaves. But what keeps the tree standing is mostly hidden: the roots. Roots hold the tree steady. They draw nourishment from the soil. They help it survive drought, wind, and winter.

Our spiritual lives are like that. People can see our worship, service, giving, and leadership. But underneath all of that is a deeper question: Where are my roots? Paul's answer is clear: in Christ.

So today I would like us to reflect on three movements:

First, Receive Christ and Keep Walking in Him

Second, Put Down Deep Roots

Third, Let Your Life Overflow with Thanksgiving

The key sentence for today is this:

"Before God prepares us for what is ahead, God first calls us to be deeply rooted in Christ."

First, Receive Christ and Keep Walking in Him

Paul begins, "As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him." Christian faith begins with a gift. We receive grace. We receive forgiveness. We receive mercy. We receive Christ.

We do not create salvation. We receive it. We do not earn God's love. Jesus comes to us in grace. Then Paul says, "continue to walk in him." Receiving Christ is the beginning; walking with Christ is the Christian life.

Faith is a daily journey. We walk with Christ in our decisions, relationships, spending, serving, forgiving, worrying, and hoping. So the Christian question is not only, "What am I doing for Jesus?" It is also, "Am I walking with Jesus while I do it?"

The Gift That Was Already Paid For

Imagine a man enjoying a meal with his family at a restaurant. When the meal ends, he reaches for the bill and realizes he does not have enough money. He begins to worry: Maybe I can use another card. Maybe I can borrow something. Maybe I can come back tomorrow.

Then the server says, "Sir, you do not need to pay." The man asks, "What do you mean?" The server smiles and says, "Someone who loves you already paid the whole bill."

Imagine the man still reaching for his wallet: "No, I need to pay something." But there is nothing left to pay. The gift has already been given. He only needs to receive it.

Sometimes we approach God exactly like that: "God, let me prove myself. Let me work harder. Let me become good enough." But the gospel says the gift has already been given. Grace has been offered. Forgiveness has been given. Christ has come to us.

"You do not need to impress Jesus. You need to receive Jesus - and keep walking with him."

Second, Put Down Deep Roots

Paul continues: "rooted and built up in him." He gives us two pictures: a tree with roots and a building with a foundation. Both say the same thing: the foundation matters.

Life has storms. Illness comes. Grief comes. Financial pressure comes. Relationships change. Plans fall apart. Jesus never promised that following him would mean a life without storms. But in Christ we can have roots that hold.

Prayer deepens our roots. Scripture deepens our roots. Worship deepens our roots. Communion deepens our roots. Christian friendship deepens our roots. And much of this growth happens quietly, where nobody else can see it.

The Two Trees After the Storm

Imagine two trees growing beside each other. From the road they look almost identical. Both are tall. Both are green. Both have strong branches. Then one night a powerful storm comes. Wind becomes violent. Rain pours down. The branches shake through the night.

By morning the storm is gone. One tree is still standing. The other has fallen. Yesterday they looked almost the same. What was the difference? Underground.

One tree had roots that had gone deep. The other had shallow roots. The storm did not create the difference. The storm revealed it.

That can be true spiritually. Two people may sit beside each other in worship. Both sing. Both smile. Both participate. Then life brings a storm - a diagnosis, a death, a disappointment, or a season when God seems silent. Suddenly, what has been growing underground becomes very important.

That is why we do not wait for the storm to begin growing roots. Every prayer is another root. Every time we open Scripture, another root grows. Every Sunday we worship, another root grows. Every time we receive Communion, another root grows. Every time we trust God through disappointment, the roots go deeper.

And if your roots feel shallow today, God is not standing over you in disappointment. God is inviting you: come deeper. If prayer has become weak, come deeper. If Scripture has been neglected, come deeper. If grief has made faith difficult, come deeper.

"You do not need perfect faith to have deep roots. You need a faithful Christ."

Third, Let Your Life Overflow with Thanksgiving

Paul ends with these words: "abounding in thanksgiving." The roots are hidden, but eventually something becomes visible: gratitude.

A deeply rooted Christian gradually becomes a grateful Christian - not because everything is easy, but because the deeper our roots go into Christ, the more clearly we see grace. A meal becomes provision. A friend becomes a gift. A Sunday morning becomes an opportunity to worship. Forgiveness becomes amazing again. The Lord's Table becomes grace placed into our hands.

The Overflowing Cup and the Long Table

Imagine holding an empty cup under a flowing fountain. At first the water covers the bottom. Then it reaches halfway. Then almost to the top. Finally the cup becomes so full that the water spills over the edges.

The cup does not struggle to overflow. It overflows because it has been filled. That is a picture of Christian thanksgiving. The more we receive Christ, walk with Christ, and become rooted in Christ, the more we recognize how full our lives already are with grace.

And today, on World Communion Sunday, imagine another picture: a table so long that you cannot see the end of it. At one place are Christians worshiping in Africa. Farther down are believers in Korea. Another congregation is worshiping in Thailand. Another in Europe. Another in Latin America. And here we are in Minnesota.

Different languages. Different cultures. Different traditions. Different stories. But one Table. One Lord. One Body. One grace. One Christ.

At the head of that table is Jesus, and he says, "Come." We do not come because we earned our place. We come because Christ invited us. And people we have never met, speaking languages we may never understand, are our brothers and sisters because all of us are rooted in the same Christ.

"Different branches, one Vine. Different people, one Body. Different tables around the world, one Lord."

Conclusion

Where Are Your Roots?

Friends, remember the three pictures we have carried today. The bill already paid: receive Christ and keep walking with him. The two trees after the storm: put your roots deeply into Christ. The overflowing cup and the long Communion Table: let your life overflow with thanksgiving.

Receive. Root. Overflow.

Perhaps our October journey does not begin by saying, "I need to do more." Perhaps it begins by saying, "I need to go deeper."

Autumn reminds us that seasons change. Life changes. Families change. Congregations change. But beneath every changing season is One who does not change: Jesus Christ.

So hear Paul's invitation: Continue to walk in Christ. Be rooted in him. Be built up in him. Be established in faith. Overflow with thanksgiving.

This week, give God ten quiet minutes each day. Open your Bible. Read a few verses slowly. Sit quietly. Then pray:

"Jesus, root my life more deeply in you."

Trust that God is working, even beneath the surface.

Church of Jesus Christ, let us say it together:

"I AM ROOTED."

And what is our foundation?

"Christ is my foundation."

The storms may come. The seasons may change. But Christ will hold us. And because Christ holds us, we can become "A People Made Ready."

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Reference Notes

1. The Holy Bible, New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition, Colossians 2:6-7.
2. F. F. Bruce, The Epistles to the Colossians, to Philemon, and to the Ephesians, New International Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1984, commentary on Colossians 2:6-7.
3. N. T. Wright, Colossians and Philemon, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1986, commentary on Colossians 2:6-7.
4. Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Book of Common Worship. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2018, Service for the Lord's Day and the Lord's Supper.