

Reasons To Live On Christ

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[0:00] Colossians 1, 24, and we'll read on into chapter 2, verse 10. Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, which is the church.

I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness, the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints.

To them, God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mercy, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. To this end, I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.

I want you to know how much I am struggling for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not met me personally. My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

[1:37] I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine sounding arguments. For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how orderly you are and how firm your faith in Christ is.

So then, just as you receive Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught and overflowing with thankfulness.

See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.

For in Christ, all the fullness of the deity lives in bodily form. And you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority.

January 24th, 1848 started out as a pretty normal day at Sutter's Mill.

[2:52] John Marshall woke up, ate his breakfast, went to work at the mill on the American River. But sometime during that day, something caught his eye, something shiny going around in the water wheel.

Do you know what it was? Gold. Gold. So he took it to Mr. Sutter, his boss. They did some experiments on it. And it was gold.

Now, believe it or not, Sutter was not exactly thrilled to find gold on his property. He was actually trying to build an agricultural empire.

And so he was a little bit upset at this discovery because he knew if the word got out that there's gold on his property, he's going to have all sorts of people coming in and overrunning his land looking for gold.

And so he tried to keep everyone quiet. And, of course, the way things work, two months later, newspaper boys were yelling gold, gold, gold in the American River throughout the streets of San Francisco.

[4:03] And so tens of thousands of people started rushing in to California. And it wasn't just from the East Coast.

Believe it or not, it took a little while for the news to get to the East Coast. The first visitors were people from Latin America and the West, from China, from Europe.

But anyways, by the time a few months passed, by boat and by land, people were rushing to California. Now, California was in a particularly interesting state at the time.

It wasn't a state. It wasn't even a territory. It was just taken, like a couple months ago, just taken from Mexico during the Mexican-American War.

And that meant it was a free-for-all. There was no taxes. There was no private property. There was no licensing. There was no bureaucracy.

[5:11] So California was a madhouse. Some things never change. So if you could find it, it was yours.

If you could find it, it was yours. And so hundreds, thousands probably, made it big. And tens of thousands went home broke. So people traveled over land and over sea by donkey and by boat for the uncertain chances, uncertain chance of riches in this world.

Riches that perish. All the people that found that gold are dead now. And they didn't carry a single penny with them. Tonight, I want to encourage you to find and take up all the riches that are in Christ Jesus.

Riches that don't perish, that you can take with you forever and ever. We started this series on union with Christ looking at Colossians 1, verse 27. And I invite you to look at that verse now. God, to them, to the saints, God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

[6:35] And so there are glorious, eternal riches for the taking in Christ. A couple of verses later, Paul says, Christ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

So riches, treasures in Christ. So believer, those riches, that treasure is already yours.

But there's more to enjoy. There's more to enjoy than what you are presently enjoying. There's more to enjoy now.

And there's more to enjoy forever and ever. For in Christ, all the fullness of the deity lives in bodily form. And you have been given fullness in Christ.

And so as we close the series, I want to encourage you simply as chapter 2, verse 6 says, just as you have received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught and overflowing with thankfulness.

[7:48] We're going to look at four encouragements tonight. Four encouragements for you to live in Christ, to dwell, to dwell in him, to dwell in him by faith, to go deep with him, to go and build high with him, to daily have fellowship with him, to hour by hour live off of his riches.

He's a mind that can't be emptied. He's a mind and a treasure that won't perish. And everything that you need is in him.

Now the first encouragement is this. This is the gospel command. This is the gospel command. In the gospel, the gospel that Paul preached, that I hope by God's grace we preach, God commands sinners to come and live on Christ, to come to Christ, to be their savior.

This morning we sang, ye slaves of sin and hell, your liberty received and safe in Jesus dwell and blessed in Jesus live. This is a part of the gospel proclamation, a part of the gospel command.

Come and live and dwell in Jesus. Let him be your savior. Why do you need a savior?

[9:16] Because you're a lawbreaker. You're a lawbreaker. You've broken God's laws. His laws, the manifestation of his, of his character, of his heart, of his glory.

The law reflects who he is, what kind of person he is. And so to break God's law is to rebel against God, the lawgiver.

It's to argue with the Holy One and it's to find fault with who he is. Find fault with his glory. It's a falling short of that because we were made in his image.

We were meant to project all of God's glory and his character to those all around us. And when we sin, we come short of doing that.

So remember last week, we were talking about Psalm 121. I told you about Robertson McQuilkin, whose wife developed Alzheimer's.

[10:18] And in a moment of frustration and anger, he slapped his wife's in the leg. And he said he was broken up for days about it.

And I said that was a terrible coming short of the glory of God. At that moment, Robertson failed to live up to who God is.

To live up to what kind of person being God is. God is love. And in a moment of anger, he did not love his wife.

Instead, he became angry with her. God is patient. He's slow to anger. And in a moment, his anger flared up. God is gentle.

He gently helps the weak. And Robertson, in that moment, wasn't gentle. So we're made to reflect, to shine forth God's glory.

[11:20] We're made to be like God in holiness and love and gentleness and patience and righteousness and to show that to others. But we don't. And in that, we sin.

And we break God's law. We fall short of the glory of God. And it's not only that we do that inadvertently, that we just trip and fall.

Sometimes it is like that. We stumble into sin. But so often, we have rebelled against God. We have sinned with a high hand against him.

And God has said one thing. And we have done another. We've thrown our fist in his face. So look at the first commandment. Ten commandments.

The first one. You shall have no other gods before me. Now, children, that doesn't mean that it's okay to have gods as long as God is the first one.

[12:24] It's not that you can have other gods as long as I'm the first in the line. No. This before, you shall have no other gods before me, is positional.

You are before me. In position. You're in front of me. And God is saying, you shall have no gods in my sight.

You shall have no gods in my sight. That's the first command. No gods before me. Nothing that you love more than me. Nothing that you listen to better than you listen to me.

Nothing you run after more than you run after me. Nothing that you do, that you don't do, for my glory, for my sake.

Everything. Always. Everything. Only. Everything. All. For God's glory. That's what it means for God to be our God.

[13:24] To have Him as the God. The supreme affection of our lives. And so I do lots of things. We do a lot of the same things. I do a lot of things.

I exercise. And I eat. And I preach. And I do yard work. And I raise children. And I husband my wife. We do these things. And the first commandment is, you do them all.

And always. Only. All. For me. For God. For my glory. Not for your glory. Not in worship. To anything else. And so you don't exercise.

So that you look good. That I look good. Exercise. So that God looks good. Don't eat for you. Eat ultimately for me. Don't do yard work for your glory.

Do yard work for my glory. Raise your children. Not so that other people will look at you and say, Wow. That's a good parent. Raise your children for my glory. For the honor that I will have.

[14:20] The first commandment is simply that in all things, God has the supreme place in my life. And there's to be a clear line of distinction.

We're not talking about a series of things. And God just happens to be at the top. We're talking about a clear line of distinction. God is up here. And everything else is down here.

God is to have all of our love. He's to be the basis of all of our thoughts. The basis for why we feel the way we feel.

Why we do what we do. He's to have the supreme, burning, worshiping, constant love of our hearts every moment of every day.

So let me ask you. Have you obeyed the first commandment? And everyone here would have to say, No, I'm a lawbreaker.

[15:25] I'm selfish. I'm egotistical. I'm boastful. I'm independent. I'm a bent in creature. God's made me for his praise.

Angels praise him. Cherubim never stop praising him. Animals obey him. Stars obey him. Nature obeys him. But we alone have joined Satan and his rebellion against God.

And that's why we need a savior. And the gospel is simply this. That is selfish, egotistical, arrogant, bent in, sinners that we are.

God and his great love for the fallen sons and daughters of Adam. He has sent his son to die in the place for sinners.

So Jesus took on flesh. He was born under this law, this first commandment. And he obeyed it perfectly.

[16:37] He obeyed it perfectly. And then he was punished as a lawbreaker. He was the sinner's substitute. So Jesus was the Lamb of God.

Completely meek, humble, perfect, always full of love, always worshiping God. And he was hung up as a murderer. And he was hung up with the thieves as a thief.

He was killed as a rebel. He took the place of the glutton, of the liar, of the pornographer. He became sin. And God the Father crushed him for sinners.

But on the third day, he raised him from the dead. And so now the gospel proclamation is all that needs to be done has been done.

All that you need for forgiveness is done. The Lamb of God has died. And so the gospel command then is come to Christ. And when you join yourself to him, it is finished.

[17:41] You are forgiven. And so the feast is spread. The doors are flung open. And the proclamation goes out. Come to Jesus. He said it. If you're thirsty, come to me.

Come to me for washing. Come for me to drink, to eat. Come to me for righteousness. And so preachers are just like those newspaper boys that were running through the streets of San Francisco saying gold, gold, gold.

We're saying there's gold. There's riches. There's everything you need. It's in Christ. And so the gospel command is eat and live. Drink and be thirsty no more.

Join yourself to Jesus. Throw yourself on Jesus. And he will save you. And so it's a free for all. There's no taxes.

There's no bureaucracy. There's nothing standing in your way. The gospel is to one and all. Come to Christ. Close with Christ. Throw away all your hopes.

[18:39] That's called repentance. You throw away your hopes. You throw away your sins. You put everything behind him. You throw away your righteousness. And you put all your hope on him. Don't wait.

Don't dally. Come just as you are. And he will give you all that you need. The gospel command then is to live on him. To live on him.

Believe as you were taught. Thank him for what he's done. That's the first commandment. Or that's the first encouragement. The gospel command is to live on Christ.

Find your treasure in him. Now the second encouragement is this. Jesus is all God for you. Jesus is all God for you.

In Christ, all the fullness of the deity lives in bodily form. So Jesus, your savior, your companion, your fellow, the one that you're called into fellowship with, your friend, is all of God for you.

[19:46] And that means his grace is endless, boundless, bottomless. We saw last week in Psalm 121. Our great need.

Our brokenness. Our deep need. Our deep need in our sin. Our need in this battle against the flesh. And our battle against unbelief. And battle when in the difficulties when our children call us.

Or our parents call us. And in that moment, we look and we don't have what it takes. But Jesus is all of God for you. And that means his grace is endless, bottomless, boundless.

If he was just a man, he wouldn't be able to satisfy our need. But he is more than just a man. He is God. And so the infinity of his mercy and grace for his loved ones is for you.

And so he said to Paul. And he says to you. My grace is sufficient for you. It's enough for you. How can he say that?

[20:55] Because he's God. He's God. And so he has an endless supply of grace for you, his brother or sister. So the span of your life, your thousands and thousands of sins, though they be sins of the deepest, reddest, die, as bad as they may be, they're nothing compared to the endless, bottomless grace of Jesus.

Where sin abounds, grace much more abounds, super abounds. And so dear sister, dear brother, Jesus is God for you.

And that means his love is free. It's eternal. It's unchangeable. His love is eternal. The son of God set his love on you before you were born.

We saw a little bit of that this morning. We love our children when they're in their mother's wombs, don't we? We haven't even met them. Well, Jesus loved us when we were in the womb of God's mind.

When there was nothing for us to be except for an idea. And Jesus had his love upon us. And then he loved you when you didn't love him.

[22:14] He loved you when you didn't return his love. And so now that you are walking with him, you do stumble and you do fall. But if he loved you when you gave him no return, won't he still love

you when your returns are just small and faltering?

He will because his love is eternal and free. It had no beginning. It has no end. And it's free. And so you didn't merit Jesus' love. He gave himself to you freely.

He loved you because he loved you. And there was no claims that you could make. There was nothing that you could point to and say, this is why Jesus has loved me. You can only point to Jesus and say, he loved me because he loved me.

So he's God for you. And that means his love is omnipotent. That means it's all powerful. We love. And yet, even in our loving, we find out that our love is not all powerful.

We wish sometimes that it could be that way. We want to love our children into heaven just by loving them, getting them there. But it doesn't work like that.

[23 : 31] We can't love our children into safety. We can't love our children enough to always keep them safe. We can't love our children enough to keep the bad things away from them, to give them health, to give our friends health.

So we pray and we pray. But none of us are just loving our brothers and sisters. And then they just get all better. But Jesus' love is different.

His love is omnipotent. It's all powerful. And so Christ looks into our dead life. And he loves life into us. And Christ loves holiness into us.

And then he loves us into a marriage with him. And then he loves us right into heaven. And so his love accomplishes everything for us. And so do you see this is what an encouragement all of this is for you to live in Jesus?

He's gone for you. All that you need, Jesus has. Every treasure, every reward, every comfort, every bit of fellowship for all your loneliness. Live in him. Grow in him.

[24 : 39] Go deep in him. And then thank him. Thank him for all that he is for you. Here's the third encouragement. Jesus is all man for you.

He's all man for you. God, for in Christ all the fullness of the deity lives in bodily form. We may ask. If Jesus is only God. Then how could he know the depth. The depths of my woe. How could he know the pain.

And the burdens that I bear. More than in just a cognitive way. In a way that's experiential. How could he know those things. But Jesus learned obedience by what he suffered.

Hebrews says. And so now we don't have a high priest that can't sympathize with us in our weakness. No, he was tempted in every way. Just as we are. Yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence.

[25 : 49] The humanity of Christ. Christ. Is meant. To draw our hearts. Towards Jesus. Towards that throne of grace. For. For finding help in our hour of need.

His humanity means that his heart echoes. With ours. The deep. The thunder of. Of our need. And our woes. And our pain.

It finds an echo in his own heart. And so the one who sits on the throne. Knows your sorrow. He knows what it is to be sad.

He knows what it is to have weakness. Not as just a spectator. But as a participant. And so his hands still have the scars. His mind still remembers the pain.

And so. Come to him. When you are hurting. Fly to Jesus. He knows. That pain.

[26 : 50] Jesus is all man for you. And so at the right hand of the father. Ruling over all. Is a man. And he's a man.

Who is for you. Who is ruling for your good. So it was the night. That Jesus was betrayed. And you know what a dark night that was.

Jesus was beginning. He was preparing his disciples. For his going away. For his death. Resurrection. And then ascension.

And so. Listen to what John says. Jesus knew. This is so interesting. Jesus knew that the father. Had put all things under his power.

And that he had come from God. And was returning to God. So he's going back to God. He's going back to rule. God's put all things under him.

[27 : 50] What happens next? You remember. He got up from the meal. Took off his outer clothing. Wrapped a towel around his waist.

After that he poured water into a basin. And began to wash his disciples feet. What kind of man sits on the throne? What's this kind?

A gentle. Shameless. Servant. A foot washing. Sinner loving. Kind hearted. King. The servant. Of servants. And so. Brother and sister. Jesus. Loves. To do you good. He showed it. Just in that. In that.

In those few moments. What kind of king is he going to be? Now that he has all this power. And authority. He's going to serve. And so he uses all of his power. To do you good. He sits on the throne.

[28:47] For your good. And so. Doesn't that draw your heart out to him? To go to him. To live on him. To seek. To go to that throne of grace. In our hour of need.

And so. Hour by hour. Living. In his presence. And so. By faith. We. Draw on his power. We look to his authority.

When we're fighting against sin. When we're fighting against Satan. When we're fighting against fear. We look to him. Because he rules for me. And so. Do you need protection? Do you need comfort?

Do you need hope? Do you need power? Do you need forgiveness? Whatever you need. It's in Christ. Joy is in his right hand.

Pleasures are in his left hand. In him. The fullness of the deity lives. Dwells. In bodily form. And in him. We've received fullness. So.

[29:44] Attached to him. All that Jesus has. Comes to us. So. Jesus is all man for you. Fourth encouragement.

To live on Christ. To have these heart level. Constant fellowship with him. Is this. Jesus. Takes great delight in you. Jesus takes great delight in you.

No one wants to be in a relationship. Where it's one way. No one wants to be in a relationship.

Where the affection. Just travels in a single direction.

Maybe you've had a friend. Like that. Where they only care about themselves. And they're really just excited about their ideas. They. They have you around. Just so that they.

Can please themselves. In whatever way. It's a sad marriage. Where the wife only loves. And the husband doesn't. And a friendship doesn't last. When it's all about one person. Where the affection.

[30:42] The delight. Only goes in one way. And sometimes. In our unbelief. And it is terrible unbelief. We. Think.

In our heart. That Jesus. Feels that way about us. That Jesus doesn't enjoy me. Jesus can't take delight. In me. How could he. Take delight in me.

But the word of God. Is so clear. For the joy. Set before him. He endured the cross. That joy. Was being. With the people. That he. Purchased. That he died for.

So Jesus. Delights in us. We are his body. And who doesn't care. For his body. Who doesn't take. Just some delight. In his body. When. When we're. When we're.

Feeling at strength. And when we're. Moving. And we're. Lifting. And we're. Using. Our muscles. We take delight. In. In using our body. To do things.

[31:38] Well. We are his body. And when he. Moves in us. And we move. In response to him. He enjoys us. And. When we move. In concert. With his heart. And so. When we're doing.

The things that he loves. And that he's excited about. He takes delight in us. We're his home. Home. Jesus. Dwells in us.

By faith. He makes his home. In us. Now don't you. Love coming home. I think most people do. I know there's situations.

That you don't. Don't you love coming home. After a vacation. Isn't that the whole point. Of a vacation. To make you realize. This is really pretty nice. What I got here.

Maybe that's just my vacations. I don't know. To feel the delights again. Of being home. To having your own bed. The comfort of.

[32:33] Doing your normal. Day to day things. Well. We are his home. We're his bride. You know.

I think I could live in a garbage can. If my wife was there. Because where I get. Where she is. I'm home. Where Jesus. Meets his bride. He is home with her.

And we're Jesus wife. He calls us home. He delights in us. He longs for his return. We long for his return. And he.

Longs for his return. He's the bridegroom. He longs to be. With the bride. You remember when Jacob. Saw Rachel. She was beautiful.

And. And so. You know. He said. What can I do? And Uncle Laban. The trickster that he is. He says. Well. You can work seven years. Which. To be honest. I. I looked at some commentaries. [33 : 37] It's like an outrageous amount. But Jacob doesn't even. Think about it. He's like. Yeah. I'll do that. So. Seven years goes by. And it says. It was like nothing to him. You know. His heart. He was so in love with her.

But then. As soon as the seven years were up. Jacob said. Give her to me. I want her. There was no delay. There wasn't like. Well.

I'll get around to it. When I get around to it. And so. The bridegroom. Wants to be with the bride. Jesus is eager. To be with us. And so. Jesus prays on us.

Last night. Father. I want them to be with me. Where I am. And so. Jesus takes great delight in you. And so. Rest your soul in him.

Fellowship with him. You're not coming to one. Who is hard towards you. Who is selfishly. Using you. He isn't slow to show you.

[34 : 32] His affection. He died when you had. Nothing good to say for yourself. And now he isn't slow. To bless you. God. The Lord.

Asked Israel. In the midst of their sin. In the midst of their going astray. And their unfaithfulness. And their idolatry. And through the prophet Jeremiah. He.

He. Asks them. Have. I been a desert. To you. Have I been a land. Of great darkness. Why do my people say.

We're free to roam. We will come to you. No more. No more. Brother or sister. Has Jesus been a desert to you. That you would go.

And. Somewhere else. Has he been a land of darkness. To you. And so. Why would you leave him. Why would you leave him. For even a day. And try to find your joy.

[35 : 27] And your hope. And your comfort. And your pleasure. It's somewhere else. Why wouldn't you stay with him. He's the only. Oasis. That we have. In this desert. Lord. And he's enough for you.

So. This is the gospel command. He's God for you. Jesus is all man for you. Jesus takes great delight in you. And so. The feast is spread. The table is set.

Everything. Is prepared. And so. He knocks on the door. And he says. Whoever opens the door. I will come in. And I will eat with you. Now.

One question. Before we leave. Before we go. Before we're done. How? How do you do these things? How do you do this? That I'm talking about.

This. Receiving Christ Jesus as Lord. Continuing to live in him. Rooted and built up in him.

Strengthened in the faith. As you were taught. And overflowing with thankfulness. How?

[36 : 27] Well. It's. It's a work of faith. This is a work that we do. By. Faith. We live on Christ. By faith. The spirit joins our hearts.

To him. By faith. He gives all the treasures. That are in Jesus. And he gives it to us. But faith. Needs. Food. Faith.

Needs. Something to live on. Something to feed on. Something to. Look at. And examine. And take to itself. Love. And that's. Where. This book.

Comes in. This book is all about Jesus. Every page. Every chapter. Is whispering. His name.

All the promises that you find here. Are yes. In. Christ. The salvation that God records. Is. All. In. Christ.

[37 : 23] It's found in him. And so go to this book. Live in this book. By the spirit. We sang. The song. By the spirit.

Our eyes are opened up to Jesus. When we're looking. At this book. Now. It's important. Because the book. This Bible. Is not. God. It's not.

The spirit. And so. Just heartlessly. Thoughtlessly. Methodically. Reading it. Will do you. No. Good. But here.

If you. By faith. Lay hold of Christ. The spirit. Will uplift you. Uphold you. Build you up in him. And so. In the Bible. You find.

The living Christ. Teaching you. In the Bible. You find the living Christ. Who's your only savior.

Who's your best friend. And so. He's the gold mine.

[38 : 21] This book. Is like the miner's lamp. That you see. The treasure with. You won't see the treasure. If you're ignoring the Bible. But with it.

You can see all the treasures. That are in Christ. You can see all the treasures. You can see all the treasures. You can see all the treasures. So dig in brother. Dig in sister. Finding Christ. Everything that you need. And to the lost. You've heard the gospel. Will you respond? Today is the day of salvation. Don't harden your heart. You've heard the gospel. Will you respond? Let's pray.

Heavenly Father. We thank you for. All of your goodness. All of your blessing to us. That comes through Christ Jesus. That comes by the work.

[39 : 26] And the power of the Holy Spirit. Father. Thank you. For your loving heart. Thank you for. Your generous heart. Out of the. Overflow of your heart.

You sent your son. To be our savior. So we thank you. I pray Lord. That you would. Make us. More focused.

More centered. On Jesus Christ. This week. There's going to be temptations. There's going to be. Trials. There's going to be. Things that.

Puzzle us. I pray that we. Would by faith. Lay a hold of Christ. In those moments. That we would live in him.

And. And. Have the mind of Christ. As. As the spirit. Reveals him to us. In the word of God. Pray. For the salvation.

[40 : 20] Of sinners. They've heard. The law. We've seen. That we are lawbreakers. They know. Of Jesus Christ.

I pray. Holy Spirit. Penetrate. Their hearts. And bring them. To yourself. To Jesus Christ. Powerfully.

For your glory. For the praise. Of your grace. We ask these things. In our. Beloved Jesus name. Amen.