

**TITLE AND NUMBER:** 247 Remaining in Christ



**REFERENCE AND KEY VERSES:** Colossians 2:6-10

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives 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 elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ. For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority.

**LOOKING FURTHER:** Ephesians 3:16-17; Colossians 1:10-12; Colossians 2:20-23; Acts 4:12.

### What does the Bible passage tell us?

We hear and read every day about people who have been scammed by those whose aim is to defraud victims out of their assets, money or possessions. They go to extreme lengths to take away precious assets. We in turn endeavour to protect what we have and to know when we are being conned.

The verses we are considering today were written by Paul to the Christians living in a town called Colossae. He was aware that 'religious scammers' intended not to steal money but to persuade new Christians to desert their new-found faith in Jesus and follow directions that were based on laws, traditions and rituals. These were contrary to the words of Jesus and the teachings of the apostles. Paul was encouraging them to remain faithful to the Lord Jesus, to be strong in what they had learned and always thankful for what Jesus had done for them. Paul is reminding them to be on their guard against those who would seek to substitute the salvation of Jesus with trusting in man-made rules and religious traditions. These regulations appeared to make the people look wise, righteous and humble by their actions. However, this was totally worthless when observing their moral behaviour and indulgences (Colossians 2: 20-23). Paul instructed them not to forget the reason for their hope, which only comes through their faith in Christ, and that they should not be tangled up in worldly excesses.

Our faith, forgiveness and eternal hope are found in Jesus alone. He came as God in bodily form (v9) and we are complete in Him. He is head over every power and authority (v10). We are children of God, not because of our rituals but purely because of the death and resurrection of Jesus, made on the cross, to forgive us for all our sins and make us totally united with God. He has given us His Holy Spirit to live in us; to lead and guide us every day of our lives.

We must be on our guard that our faith is not compromised, but rather is protected as we put our faith in the Lord Jesus and only Him. (Acts 4:12)

### Reflections

- How precious is your faith to you?
- How can we safeguard the faith we have?
- Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in your response to Him. If you need help, take time to talk to your Chaplain.

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



**FAITH**

Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for?  
It's okay to talk to God about this.

