

# **As Ye Have Received Christ, So Walk in Him! Col. 2:6**

Charles A. Pledge

**How did you receive Christ.** The religious world thinks that receiving Christ is merely saying in their heart, “Come in Lord Jesus, and be my Savior.” That is not how the Bible describes “Receiving Christ.” preachers have been quite ignorant on the subject of receiving Christ, including some of our own who emphatically declare there is no such thing as receiving Christ. But there is and we want to introduce that today in this brief article. Some of it you can read in the latest book, The Greek Grammar and the Direct Influence of the Holy Spirit.

Paul wrote to the Colossians in 2:6: **“As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him.”** Much of the quibbling over translations is the order of nouns in referring to Jesus. In this instance, Paul lists it in the following way with the article “THE” before each noun, but with it appearing in the English translation only once. Paul literally said, “As ye have therefore received the Christ the Jesus the Lord, so walk in him.

Christ is the Greek equivalent of the Hebrew word Messiah. It simply means anointed one. Christ is to say, God’s anointed one.” Jesus means Savior, Matthew 1:21. Lord of course means ruler. Paul said then, **as ye have received the anointed one of God, the Savior from sin, the divine Ruler, so walk in him.** Putting this together in the practical way means that as we have

received Jesus as the one (and only one) whom God anointed to save us we look for no other Savior knowing that there shall be none other. And, as we have received the Savior sent from God, Jesus of Nazareth, we are committed to his divine appointment and because of his appointment from God to save us, we shall submit fully to that heavenly purpose. **The Lord means we submit to him as Lord because there is no other ruler for this life.** He is the Lord, Matthew 28:18. To him must every knee bow in order to be blessed of God, Phil. 2:11-16.

God intends that every soul shall receive Jesus as his anointed one (and the only one) to save us from our sins, and to rule over us all during our life on this earth in that spiritual kingdom defined by the rule of God in our hearts. **Except we receive him in this way, we have not received him.** To call him our Savior without first acknowledging him in our heart as the Christ of God and accepting him as Lord of our life is contrary to holy Scripture. Jesus placed it in perspective in Luke 6:46 when he said, **“Why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?”** Jesus is the Lord, the Ruler of life.

**Just because men do not accept him as Lord does not argue against his Lordship.** If we claim to accept his Lordship, then we are obligated to do what he instructs us to do. To claim the grace of God relieves men of that obligation is to argue in ignorance. Grace can not mitigate against Lordship; neither can it fully and efficiently function apart from Lordship. Those who do not accept and conform accordingly to the Lordship of Christ are not accepted by God. They are still on the outside looking in.

They are not in Christ, nor indeed can be until they bow to the authority of Jesus Christ, Matt. 8:18.

Paul told the Colossian Christians that they should walk in Christ as they had received him. That is, in the manner in which they received Jesus. so they were obligated to live in harmony with him. The question is, how did they receive him? In what manner was he received by them? The answer is simple. The Colossians who became Christians; disciples of Jesus the Christ, received Jesus as all other Christians everywhere had received him. But how was that? We can have no better a commentator than the Holy Spirit, and his word settles every issue among those who are sincere and wish to please God. Where can we find that commentary? If one passage will settle the question, then two or more places it beyond any shadow of a question.

**In Galatians, the Holy Spirit inspired Paul to write in 3:27: “For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ.”** To put on Christ is to in a manner of speech, wrap the will, affections, desires, ambition, and willingness to obey the Father, around the old man, or will. It is only in this way that one is baptized into Christ. **This is the way one receives Jesus; to accept his character and will as our will.** This is the mind-set of Christ of which the Holy Spirit discusses in Philippians 2:5-8.

In Romans chapter six Paul answers the quibbles of the unbelieving Jews regarding sin and grace and points out that to deliberately sin places one outside the reach of grace. It is only when a death to sin (a separation from the practice and penalty

of sin) takes place that one receives the benefits of the blood of Jesus and thereby is separated from sin; dies to sin .It is after this occurs that he is united with Jesus and becomes a new man, the old man having been crucified with Christ (put to death; separated form) and a new life is then lived, Romans 6:1-5. **When the act of baptism is completed, then one becomes a new man. He has then received Christ into the heart and life.**

**All this goes back to the fundamentals of Galatians 3:27 in putting on Christ, or receiving Christ.** This is the only way to receive, or to get into Christ. We hear it said that water baptism is the action that does this. That is false. Water baptism is just that; an act of being immersed in water. If the statement that water baptism is the act that gets us into Christ, then all who have been immersed in water are in Christ and have received Christ. all water baptism will do, standing alone in this respect, is to wash the dirt off the body. But Peter said (1 Peter 3:21) that water baptism is not to wash away the filth of the flesh. It is the answer of a good conscience. How is that. Because, there is a mental act which must accompany immersion in water in order to receive, or to get into Christ. **What is that mental act? It is the act of the mind which joins the act of water baptism so they become united as in a marriage of two individuals. Two, yet one!**

**The mental act is described by the Holy Spirit in Galatians 3:27 as putting on Christ.** That is the same a Paul described in Romans 12:2 as the renewing of the mind; the making anew of the mind again by the Christian. How? By refusing to be conformed to the thoughts and actions of the world but by the

renewing of the mind in order to demonstrate by conduct what is that good, and acceptable, and complete will of God.

**Paul commanded the Colossians to so walk as they had received Jesus Christ the Lord.** That is, as they had committed themselves to follow Jesus in the same manner Jesus obeyed the Father, so to conduct themselves in him. Colossians proves to broad principles from which we may deduct several responsibilities.

1. There is one way, and only one way to receive Christ. That way is to put him on as we have discussed. It is that deep commitment to obey the Father's will even if it costs one's physical life. That is the strength of that commitment! **That is truly receiving Jesus as Lord of all of life.**
2. This passage also proves that even though we can not go back and be baptized over and over into Christ, the mental act is the act whereby one determines to accept his will and envelope ones will with that character and will of Jesus, that one can come to the point in life that he/she needs to make a new commitment to do as he committed to do at the very beginning of spiritual life in Christ.

Baptism is nothing but an act of immersion in water. **But baptism into Christ is an immersion in water coupled with that full commitment to follow Jesus wherever the path of discipleship/service might lead.** Although we may full realize our inadequacies to do perfectly all we attempt, yet we are determined to try to the best of ability to do all we have opportunity to do in order to serve him who died for us.

Cheap grace and an easy faith is not what we came looking for. Those of us who became Christians (both now and in the first century) came looking for God, and we learned we can only approach him by the Son, John 14:6. We came to Christ because we were taught the Father's will, John 6:44-45. **We came, we found, we accepted, we put on, and then we began to enjoy the rich and wonderful blessings of heaven in Christ, Ephesians 1:3.**

But sometimes we Christians relax. We need to examine ourselves daily, 2 Corinthians 13:5. We need to determine in our own thoughts a conclusion based upon our actions, our disposition, and our thinking, whether we are in the faith as taught by the Scriptures, or if we are worthless to our Lord by reason of indifference, coolness, and unbelief. If we are lacking we need to renew our mind. We need, as Paul wrote to the Romans, **“Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provisions for the flesh,” Romans 14:13.**

The mold of the world (Romans 12:2) is a broad and deep pit into which many unsuspecting Christians rush into headlong. Modern teaching is so unlike apostolic teaching and preaching. All those in the first century fully understood how they received and put on Christ. They understood how to live with Christ: that was by the word living in them, Gal. 2:20. **They fully understood that if the word of Christ did not live in them, they were not crucified with him.**

They understood the mind-set of Christ was that spirit by which they were united in love and faith in order to honor Christ and

glorify the Father, Ephesians 4:1-7. They realized that except this spirit be in them they were none of Christ's, Romans 8:8-10. **They realized that this mind-set of Christ assured them that they were of a godly spirit, or disposition.**

If apostolic preaching and teaching formed this in the thoughts and faith of men and women in the first century, why does it not do the same today? The answer is, it will if the same gospel is preached in its simplicity and clarity! The reason all we Christians are not united in one spirit is because the vast majority of people who call themselves Christians never heard of that spirit. **The mind-set of Christ is bound by a passage few have ever taken the time to analyze and understand, let alone commit their lives to conforming to it.**

**For the most part people are baptized in water for various reasons.** Some just want to get into the church and enjoy the respectability of religion. Others are baptized because they thought that was the in thing to do. Others have been baptized in water because some one converted them to water salvation (some throw church salvation in for good measure). If water baptism alone gets one into Christ, then everyone who has ever been immersed got into Christ. I was baptized by some older boys in the Obion River at Lane's Ferry, Tennessee by the time I was five years old. But that immersion in water did not get me into Christ. It was not for several years later as a young married man starting his family with a wife and a son that I learned how to get into Christ. I gladly made that commitment and was immersed in water as Scripture instructs in order that I might be baptized into Christ. I think, if memory serves me correctly, that **I was the**

only one in that meeting of two weeks duration that was baptized into Christ. the preacher was “down,” “way down,” at the conclusion of the meeting because a simple, poor farm boy way back from nowhere was the only visible result he could claim with all his fervent preaching. But those two weeks of preaching taught me something and I gladly received what was taught.

But many times the world’s ways of thought and actions get all tangled up with mine and I find myself having to go to the word of God in order to get my mind renewed in order that my life can be transformed by the Lord. I have always prayed that when it comes time to depart this life I can depart on a high note when the world is ten gazillion light miles away from me in thought and conduct. Why? The world’s philosophy is for the here and now. It may make fleshly living enjoyable in certain ways, but it is not the kind of pleasures one would want to endure eternally. The world’s philosophies and ways are contradictory to the thoughts and ways of the Lord. Sometimes we allow ourselves to relax and gradually ease back toward the world in thought. **Be assured that conduct will follow our thinking, Matthew 12:35; Prov. 4:23.**

Remember, that when our spiritual thoughts and life grows sluggish, it needs a spiritual tuneup that can be obtained only by following Paul’s admonition: “*As ye have therefore received the Jesus, the Christ, the Lord, so walk in him.*” That is the cure for all spiritual blahs and sluggishness. It will prevent one from becoming reprobate (worthless) before the Lord. It will perk us up, and all those around us who will be influenced by good.



**If the world could see all who profess to be Christians truly living as Christ lived, wouldn't they be amazed?**

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