

# NEW LIFE IN KINGDOM CONFERENCE

Goshen Faith Embassy Int'l.

Haverhill, MA

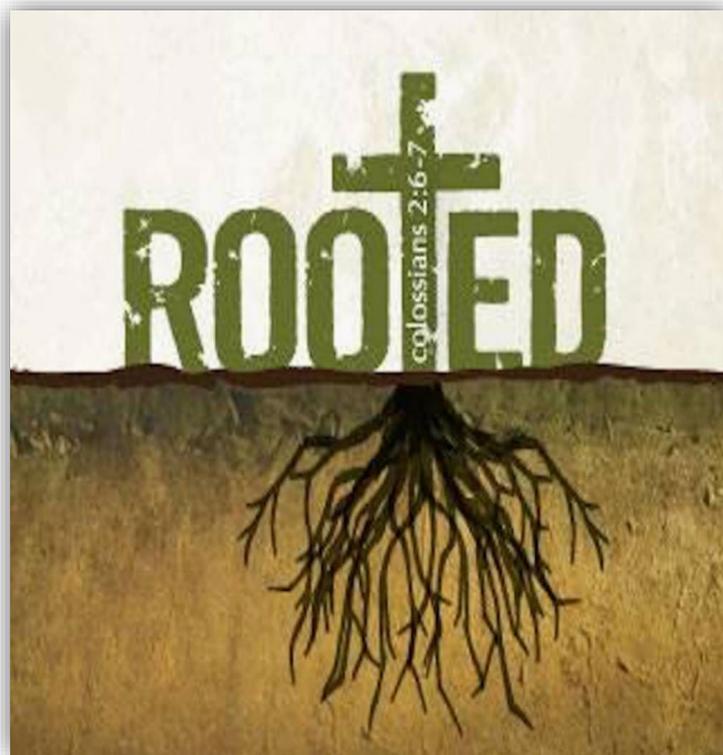
14<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> April 2022

## Theme

Kingdom Establishment

## Speaker

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“As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.”

(Colossians 2:6-7)

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1. Epistle to the Colossians

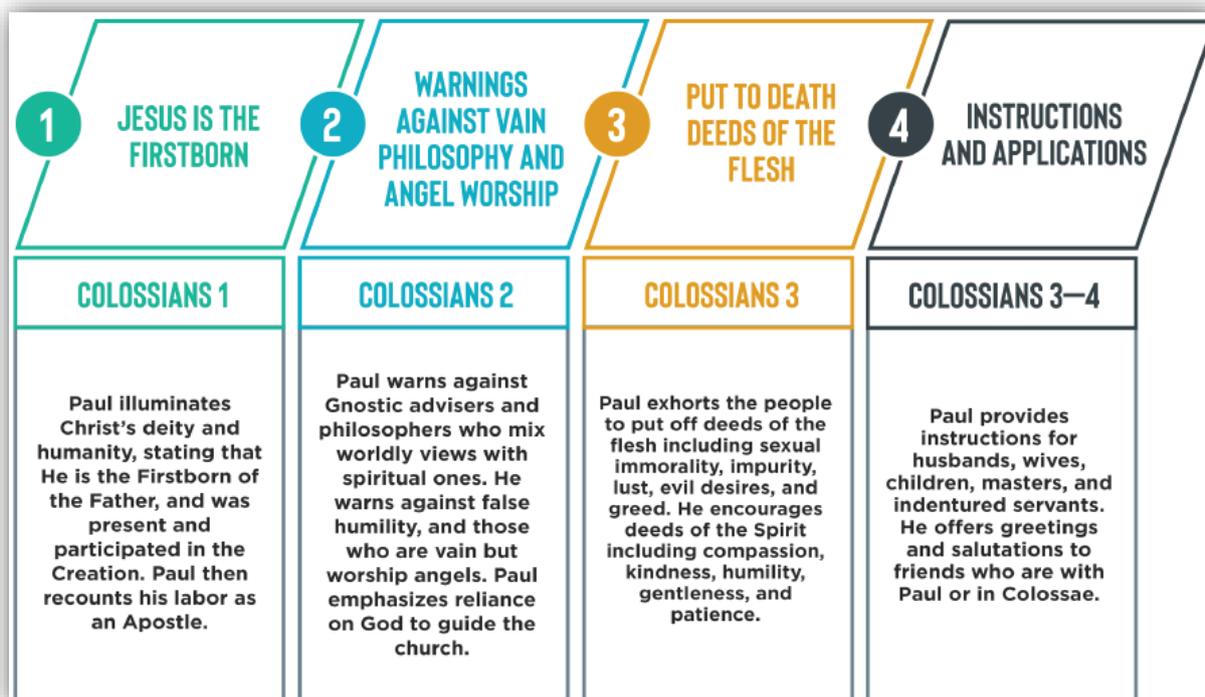
Colossians is a letter written by the Apostle Paul approximately A.D. 60-62 while imprisoned in Rome. Written to Christians living in Colosse, a small city located on the Lycus River in present-day Turkey,

- Colossae church was founded by Epaphras.
  - Epaphras was one of Paul's disciples in Ephesus. Paul describes him as: "fellow servant," "a faithful minister of Christ," "a servant of Christ Jesus," "always wrestling in prayer," and "working hard."
- Epaphras visited Paul in prison in Rome and notified him that false doctrines and practices were infiltrating the church.
- There was a new false doctrine based on paganism and Greek philosophy that focussed on gaining perfection through human regulations.
- Some aspects of Colossian heresy included:
  - Ceremonialism – Strict rules about the kinds of permissible food and drink, religious festivals, and circumcision.
  - Worshipping of Angels
  - Depreciation of Christ - False teachers were belittling the deity of Jesus; they were teaching that He was not actually God.
  - Reliance on human wisdom and tradition.
- Colossians were therefore exposed to the risk of drifting from the gospel.

## 1.2. Purpose of the epistle

- To expose and combat heresy – both false doctrine and false teachers.
- To instruct the Colossians in true doctrine regarding sufficiency and supremacy of Christ.
- To warn the church on the danger of returning to the paganism.
- To instruct them on holy living.

### 1.3. Structure



### 1.4. Application for us

The Epistle provides today's believer with:

- A sound Christological doctrine – Who Jesus is and what He did for our salvation
- A Revelation of pre-eminence Christ. (Your view of Jesus Christ will impact every area of your life).
- A practical theology for day-to-day living – rules for holy living, how to manage godly households, etc.

- The book of Colossians is all about who we are in Christ.
- In the first two chapters, Paul teaches the Colossians who they are in Christ; in the last two chapters, he instructs them on how to walk in Christ.
- The better we know what they believe, the harder it will be for someone to persuade us otherwise.

## 2. BECOMING ESTABLISHED

To Establish is:

- To set up something permanently.
- To make firm or stable.
- To introduce and cause to grow and multiply.
- To prove beyond doubt.

An Established believer therefore is one who is **rooted and built** in Christ. He/she:

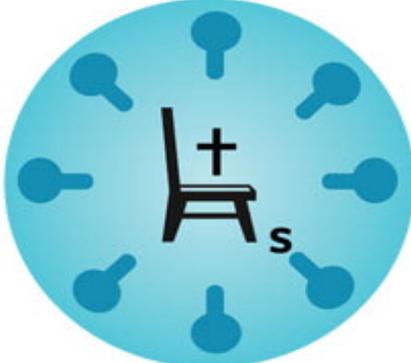
- Is firmly grounded in Christ.
- steadfast and immovable in the wake of storms of life and winds of doctrines.
- Not only grows in the faith but is also productive and fruitful in their walk with God.
- Can give indispensable and convincing proof of the resurrected Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

### 2.1. How do we become established?

#### a) By knowing Christ and living a Christ directed life

- **Colossians 1: 26,28** – *“The mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints, which is **Christ in you**, the hope of glory. Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, **that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.**”*

### Established Believer



- Life is Christ-centered
- Empowered by Holy Spirit
- Introduces others to Christ
- Has effective prayer life
- Understands God's Word
- Trusts God
- Obeys God

- The Christian life is a personal intimate relationship between you and Christ.

- Salvation is just the starting point. What comes next is fellowship
- Salvation is having our sins forgiven and receiving eternal life. Fellowship is our daily relationship/communion with Christ.

### **Illustration**

- The life of the early church is a picture of the Lordship of Christ ruling over every area of life.
- The first believers were established. Their souls were preoccupied with His kingdom, His purpose, His love, His people, and His vision for the world.
- The book of Acts records their commitment to learn more about Jesus through study, to be connected to Him through prayer, and total dependence on the Holy Spirit.

**A life centred on, and directed by, Christ will be Established in every area.**

### **b) By coworking with Christ in establishing his Kingdom**

*(See section 4 below)*

## **2.2. Why should we become established?**

### **a) Fruitfulness and productivity**

- **I Corinthians 15:58** – *“Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.”*
- **Psalms 92:12-14** – *“The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God. They will still bear fruit in old age; they will stay fresh and green.”*

### **b) Maturity and stability.**

- Your faith will be tested.
- If you are not mature, you will be led astray
  - **Ephesians 4:14** – A person who established in faith *“is no longer an infant tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of doctrine and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming”*

- If you are not stable, you will fall
  - **Matthew 7:24-27** – Wise builder vs foolish builder. The rain will come down, the streams will rise and the winds will blow and beat on you. If you are established, you will not fall.

**Proverbs 24:10: If you fail under pressure, your strength is too small.**

**Ahaz Syndrome:** Isaiah 7:1-7; 2 Chr 28

Seeing God's Word fulfilled in our lives seems to be a simple matter of standing firm in our faith – Stability

We have a choice to stand firm in our faith and believe God's Word over what the world is telling us.

If we are not firmly grounded, we will see defeat in the areas where we were hoping for victory.

God told Ahaz, *"If you do not stand firm in your faith, then you will not stand at all"* (Isaiah 7:9).

God told Ahaz that he would see victory over the evil plans of Aram and Israel,

But in order for this to be fulfilled Ahaz first had to stand firm in his faith.

God gave Ahaz a choice.

If he chose to stand firmly on God's word, then success would be the result.

But Ahaz had to make that choice.

- **False doctrines: Col 2:8-10**

**Doctrine:** "a set of ideas or beliefs that are taught or believed to be true."

**Biblical doctrine:** teachings that align with the revealed Word of God, the Bible.

**False doctrine:** any idea that adds to, takes away from, contradicts, or nullifies the doctrine given in God's Word.

i). **Philosophy:** human reasoning and logic; wisdom of men.

- Gnostic false teachers were claiming that salvation could be gained through a special form of secret knowledge.
- Philosophies are a product of the ideas of men.

- Beware of any deuterion-biblical teachings.
- No spiritual leader's books should be exalted above the word of God.
- If I ever teach you anything and you find that the Bible says something different, the Bible is correct and I am in error.

ii). **Empty Deceit:** Basically this means lies.

- Worldviews that are contrary to what the Bible teaches.
- To introduce false teachings straight out into the message would be too obvious.
- The false teachers instead mix a bit of the lies together with the truth of God's words to make it un-detectable.
- They already have your love and trust; the rest is easy.

iii). **Traditions of men** – Jesus fought this with the pharisees

- **Mark 7:7-9**
- Handed from generation to generation

**How to test doctrines:**

i). **Test the origin.**

- Sound doctrine originates with God; false doctrine originates with someone or something created by God.
- The Apostle Paul went to great lengths to convince the church in Galatia that the gospel he taught was not his own, but God's.
- **Galatians 1:11-12** – *“For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ”*

ii). **Test of authority.**

- Sound doctrine grounds its authority within the Bible; false doctrine grounds its authority outside the Bible.
- Doctrines that originate in the mind of God are recorded in the Word of God.

iii). **Test of consistency**

- Sound doctrine is consistent with the whole of Scripture; false doctrine is inconsistent with some parts of Scripture.
- Because there can be no contradiction in the mind of God, there can be no contradiction in the revelation of God.

**True doctrine originates with God (origin), is grounded in the Bible (authority), and agrees with the whole of Scripture (consistency).**

The solution to false teachers and deadly doctrine is not to obsess with falsehoods, but to pursue truth.

### **Examples of false doctrines**

- The idea that there are “many paths to God.”
- Any teaching that redefines the person of Jesus Christ.
- Teaching that adds human religious works to Christ’s finished work on the cross as necessary ingredients for salvation.
- The teaching that presents grace as a license to sin.
- Denial of hell’s existence
- Suffering means you have unrepented sin
- Materialism as a measure of blessings.

### **c) Because God expects us to establish his kingdom**

- We have a delegated responsibility: Matthew 28
- Legal principle of “*nemo dat quod non habeat*”

*(See section 4 below)*

## 3. ESTABLISHING THE KINGDOM

### 3.1. The Kingdom of God

- It is the realm over which God reigns as king.
- It is the rule of God in heaven and on earth
  - **Psalm 103:19** – *“The LORD has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all.”*
- It is the fulfilment of God’s will on earth.
  - **Matthew 6:9-10** – *“This, then, is how you should pray: ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven...’”*
- In the OT: The Kingdom of God was represented in types and shadows and prophesied about
- In the NT: The Kingdom is the central theme of Jesus’ teaching
- The kingdom of God also means Christ’s rule over the hearts and lives of those who willingly submit to God’s authority.
- **Luke 17: 21** – *“The Kingdom of God is within you.”*
  - Jesus was speaking of himself where He was speaking of himself.
  - **en-tos’** – In the midst of you.

### 3.2. Producing proof

- To establish is to prove beyond doubt.
- John 12:9-11 (TPT). *“When the word got out that Jesus was not far from Jerusalem, a large crowd came out to see him, and they also wanted to see Lazarus, the man Jesus had raised from the dead. This prompted the chief priests to seal their plans to do away with both Jesus and Lazarus, for his miracle testimony was irrefutable and was persuading many of the Jews living in Jerusalem to believe in Jesus.”*
- To establish the kingdom of God, we must produce proof of the power and dominion of the kingdom.

- In law, there is what we call **rules of evidence** and evidence can be classified according to its weight.

a) **Indispensable evidence:** Evidence which is necessary to prove a fact. The absence of indispensable evidence renders the proof of a given fact impossible.

The strongest indispensable evidence is a transformed life

**Examples:**

- **John 13:35** – *“By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.” – Love is the proof of discipleship*
- **Matthew 7: 15-20** – *“Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them. – the evidence of who they are is the fruit they bear. Without the fruit of the spirit, we cannot say you are walking in the spirit.”*

b) **Conclusive evidence:** Evidence that cannot be contradicted by any other evidence. It is so strong as to overbear any other evidence to the contrary. The evidence is of such a nature that it compels a fact-finder to come to a certain conclusion.

- **Luke 7:8-19** – *“John’s disciples reported back to him the news of all these events taking place (Jesus had just raised a dead man). He sent two of them to the Master to ask the question, “Are you the One we’ve been expecting, or are we still waiting?” The men showed up before Jesus and said, “John the Baptizer sent us to ask you, ‘Are you the One we’ve been expecting, or are we still waiting?’” 21-23. In the next two or three hours Jesus healed many from diseases, distress, and evil spirits. To many of the blind he gave the gift of sight. Then he gave his answer: “Go back and tell John what you have just seen and heard: The blind see, the lame walk, Lepers are cleansed, The deaf hear, The dead are raised, and the Gospel is being preached.*

- **Acts 1:8** – *“You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be [a]witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*
- **Acts 4:33** – *“With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God’s grace was so powerfully at work in them all.”*
- **Phillip in Samaria: Acts 8:4-8** – *“Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, **hearing and seeing** the miracles which he did. (TPT: The crowds were eager to receive Philip’s message and were persuaded by the many miracles and wonders he performed). For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. And there was great joy in that city.*
- **Acts 18:5** – Paul, while at Corinth *“devoted himself exclusively to preaching, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ”*

To establish the kingdom of God, we must produce proof of the power and dominion of the kingdom.

**Illustration:** Showing ‘Jesus Film’ in India in 2015

### 3.3. Using the keys of the Kingdom

- Matthew 16:19 - I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”
- Not keys to the kingdom – we are already in the Kingdom
- Keys of the kingdom – to unlock the power of the kingdom and make it work in our lives

#### **What do keys represent?**

- Keys represent authority
- Keys represent access
- Keys represent ownership
- Keys represent control
- Keys represent freedom

**Keys activate function: Unlock and lock up accordingly**

## 4. CONCLUSION

- **Colossians 2:7** – *Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.*
- Paul provides **two images** that show the importance being established
- First, we are **"rooted" in Christ**. The idea is that of a tree or plant whose roots form the strength and basis for life.
- The believer's roots are Christ, not another source, as false teachers would suggest.
- Second, the believer is **"built up" in Christ**. This building or architectural metaphor speaks of a building that is constructed by the power of Christ.
- Just as only Christ can save a person, only Christ can build up or mature a person.

