

Christ Is Enough: Standing Firm in the Risen Christ

Based on Colossians 2:1–5

Day 1 — What Burdens You Reveals What You Love

Scripture Readings: Colossians 2:1, Colossians 1:28–29, 2 Corinthians 11:28–29, Acts 20:28, John 10:11

Paul opens Colossians 2 by letting the church see what was weighing on him. He does not begin with strategy, personality, or ministry success. He begins with struggle. “I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you.” That is not polished ministry language. That is a shepherd opening his heart.

What burdened Paul tells us what he loved. He loved Christ, and because he loved Christ, he loved Christ’s people. His concern for the church was not shallow, selective, or limited to people he knew personally. He carried real pain for believers he had never met face to face. That kind of love does not come naturally. It is the fruit of grace. It is what happens when Christ grips a man’s heart.

That is worth sitting with for a minute. We often evaluate ministry by visible things: gifting, influence, communication, energy, leadership. And yes, some of those things matter. But Colossians reminds us that one of the clearest marks of faithful ministry is love that carries spiritual weight. Real shepherds do not merely talk to crowds. They care for souls. They pray, they weep, they warn, they endure, and sometimes they carry burdens nobody else sees.

This also presses beyond pastors. If you belong to Christ, then you are being taught here to love what Christ loves. And Christ loves His church. Not the imaginary church in our heads. Not the perfect church that exists nowhere on earth. The real church. The people. The weaknesses. The needs. The burdens. The slow work of grace.

It is easy to critique the church. That takes no maturity at all. It is much harder to love the church in a way that bears, forgives, prays, and serves. But that is where Christ is shaping us. What burdens you will often reveal what you love most. And if Christ is teaching us to love His people, then the church will become less of a convenience and more of a concern.

Reflection Questions

1. What tends to burden you most right now, and what does that reveal about your heart?
2. Do you love the actual church Christ died for, or just the idea of church when it suits you?
3. In what ways could you carry the spiritual good of other believers more intentionally?

Practical Application

Pray today for your church, your pastors, and at least two other believers by name. Ask God to deepen your love for Christ's people and to make you more willing to serve, bear with, and encourage them.

Prayer

God our Father, thank You for loving Your church and giving Your Son for her. Forgive me for the ways I have treated Your people casually or selfishly. Grow in me a deeper love for Christ and therefore a deeper love for His church. Teach me to care, to pray, to serve, and to bear burdens with joy. Make my heart more like the heart of Christ. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 2 — Strong Hearts, Knit Together in Love

Scripture Readings: Colossians 2:2, Ephesians 4:15–16, Philippians 2:1–5, Hebrews 3:12–13, Colossians 3:12–14

Paul’s longing for the church was not vague. He wanted their hearts to be encouraged and their lives to be knit together in love. That is a strong picture. He is not talking about surface-level niceness or a few warm feelings on Sunday morning. He is talking about inward strength and real spiritual unity.

The heart in Scripture is the center of the inner life. It includes our thinking, desires, and will. Paul wants believers whose hearts are strengthened, not flimsy. He wants Christians who are not spiritually fragile, not easily blown around, not constantly shaken by every pressure, opinion, or fear. But notice this strengthening is not meant to happen in isolation. Paul also wants them knit together in love.

That matters because we often try to separate what God has joined. Some want truth without love. They want sound doctrine but not patience, kindness, tenderness, or humility. Others want love without truth. They want warmth, acceptance, and unity, but with no concern for what is actually true. Paul refuses both options. He wants hearts strengthened in truth and lives joined together in love.

That is how Christ builds a stable church. He strengthens believers inwardly, and He binds believers together relationally. The body grows as the members are joined and held together. That means the Christian life is not designed for spiritual isolation. Lone-ranger Christianity may feel easier for a while, but it is not healthy. Detached believers may call themselves independent, but usually they are just vulnerable.

There is also comfort here. Christ does not intend for His people to endure weakness alone. He gives us His Word, His Spirit, and His people. He often strengthens our hearts through the ordinary faithfulness of other believers: a timely word, a prayed-over text, a hard conversation, a patient kindness, a shared burden. None of that is flashy. But it is real grace.

If we want to be a strong church, we must be a connected church. Strong hearts and joined hearts belong together.

Reflection Questions

1. Are you trying to grow spiritually while keeping the church at arm’s length?
2. Do you tend to drift toward truth without love, or love without truth?
3. How has God used other believers to strengthen your heart in seasons of weakness?

Practical Application

Reach out to one person in your church today with intentional encouragement. Send a thoughtful message, make a call, or have a conversation that strengthens their heart in Christ.

Prayer

God our Father, thank You for not leaving us alone. Thank You for Your Word, Your Spirit, and Your people. Strengthen my heart and guard me from isolation, pride, and coldness. Knit me together with Your church in real love. Help me to speak truth with grace, to receive encouragement with humility, and to be a source of strength to others. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 3 — Knowing Christ Changes Everything

Scripture Readings: Colossians 2:2–3, Colossians 1:15–20, John 1:14–18, Hebrews 1:1–3, 2 Corinthians 4:6

Paul’s longing for the church did not stop with stronger hearts and deeper unity. All of that was leading somewhere. He wanted believers to reach “all the riches of full assurance of understanding” and the knowledge of God’s mystery, which is Christ. That is not a minor detail. It is the center of the passage.

The key to spiritual well-being is an increased knowledge and focus upon Christ. What you think of Christ is everything. Your conception of Him will shape your life. A small view of Christ will produce a weak and unstable Christian life. But a true and growing vision of Christ strengthens, steadies, and secures the soul.

That matters because plenty of people know enough about Jesus to be vaguely religious, but not enough about Him to be deeply anchored. They know He is important. They know He is helpful. They know He belongs somewhere in the picture. But they do not see Him as the crucified, risen, reigning Lord in whom all the fullness of God dwells. They do not see Him as the center of wisdom, peace, hope, and assurance.

And that thin view of Christ always weakens people. If Jesus is only an example, He will not steady your conscience. If Jesus is only a comforting idea, He will not carry the weight of your suffering. If Jesus is only a religious figure from the past, He will not conquer your fear of death. But if He is the risen Son of God, the image of the invisible God, the One who died for sinners and rose in victory, then everything changes.

What you believe about Christ makes all the difference now and forever. Your vision of Christ will quicken and shape your life. It will shape how you pray, how you suffer, how you fight sin, how you worship, how you endure disappointment, and how you face death.

The goal is not merely to say true things about Christ. The goal is to behold Him, trust Him, love Him, worship Him, and live in light of who He is. That is where full assurance grows. Not in staring endlessly at yourself, but in seeing Christ more clearly.

Reflection Questions

1. Is your view of Christ large enough to steady your life?
2. Do you know correct things about Jesus without being deeply anchored in Him?
3. Where do you most need a clearer vision of Christ right now?

Practical Application

Spend extra time today meditating on Colossians 1:15–20. Read it slowly and prayerfully. Write down what it teaches you about who Christ is, then thank Him specifically for each truth.

Prayer

God our Father, thank You for making Yourself known in Your Son. Forgive me for settling for small thoughts of Christ. Open my eyes to see Him more clearly and love Him more deeply. Let my mind be filled with truth about Him, and let my heart be steadied by His glory, His grace, and His reign. Make Christ larger in my understanding, deeper in my affection, and more central in my life. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 4 — Christ Is the Treasure

Scripture Readings: Colossians 2:3, 1 Corinthians 1:30, John 15:4–5, Romans 5:1, Hebrews 1:1–3, 2 Peter 1:3

Colossians 2:3 is one of those verses that leaves no room for spiritual leftovers: “In whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” Paul is speaking of Christ. Not some of the treasures. Not most of them. All of them.

That means Christ is not a useful beginning who must later be supplemented. He is not one resource among many. He is not step one in a larger spiritual system. He is the treasure. Everything needed for salvation, righteousness, spiritual maturity, true wisdom, and lasting hope is found in Him.

That is exactly why false teaching is so dangerous. False teaching usually does not begin by cursing Christ. It begins by complimenting Him and then quietly replacing Him. It says Jesus is good, but you need more. More insight. More experience. More rules. More ritual. More success. More spirituality. More self-mastery. Same lie, different packaging.

But Paul will not let us think that way. Christ is sufficient in justification. We are made right with God through Him, not through our efforts. Christ is sufficient in sanctification. Apart from Him we can do nothing, and through Him we have all we need for life and godliness. Christ is sufficient in revelation. God has made Himself known in His Son. Christ is sufficient in perseverance. Our security rests in His saving work, not in our ability to hold ourselves together.

If you have Christ, you are not missing the treasure. He is the treasure.

That question becomes very personal very quickly. When life collapses, where do you run? When guilt presses in, where do you hide? When fear rises, what steadies you? When temptation comes, where do you look for strength? At the deepest level, what is carrying the weight of your life?

Whatever sits there functionally becomes your treasure. And if it is not Christ, it will fail you. Only Christ can bear that kind of weight. He is enough because He is risen, reigning, and full of all that His people need.

Reflection Questions

1. Where are you looking for what can only be found in Christ?
2. In practice, what do you tend to treat as your treasure when life gets hard?
3. How does the sufficiency of Christ challenge your fears or habits right now?

Practical Application

Identify one area where you have been leaning on something besides Christ for peace, security, or strength. Confess it plainly to the Lord and replace that false refuge with a specific promise from Scripture about Christ.

Prayer

God our Father, thank You that all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are found in Christ. Forgive me for looking elsewhere for what can only be found in Him. When I am afraid, teach me to rest in Christ. When I am guilty, teach me to hide in Christ. When I am weak, teach me to depend on Christ. Keep me from spiritual counterfeits and make my heart satisfied in Your Son. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 5 — The Tomb Is Empty, So Stand Firm

Scripture Readings: Colossians 2:4–5, Matthew 28:5–6, 1 Corinthians 15:17–20, Romans 4:25, Hebrews 7:25, John 10:27–30

Paul says he writes “so that no one may delude you with plausible arguments.” That word plausible matters. False teaching does not always sound foolish. It often sounds polished, thoughtful, compassionate, deep, and convincing. It flatters the intellect. It appeals to pride. It offers something a little more sophisticated than plain old Christ.

The church still faces those voices. Some say Christ is good, but not enough. Others say Christ is important, but what you really need is a little more spirituality, a little more novelty, a little more self-made wisdom. Some promise life apart from the ordinary means of grace. Some promise growth without the church. Some promise peace without repentance. Some promise fullness while moving Christ off center.

Paul’s answer is not panic. It is firmness. He rejoices to see their good order and the firmness of their faith in Christ. That is what he wants for the church: not spiritual restlessness, but stability. Not gullibility, but discernment. Not novelty-chasing, but settled faith in Christ.

And on Easter Sunday, that lands with even greater force. We do not stand firm in a dead teacher, a religious memory, or a moral example. We stand firm in a risen Savior. The tomb is empty. Christ is alive. That means His cross truly accomplished redemption. It means His sacrifice was accepted. It means death has been conquered. It means our faith is not wishful thinking. It means Christ is not lacking. It means every “Jesus plus” message is exposed as empty.

The resurrection is God’s public declaration that Christ is enough.

So stand firm. Stand firm when polished voices promise something more. Stand firm when your heart feels weak. Stand firm when the world offers substitutes. Stand firm when suffering makes you wonder whether Christ is enough. Stand firm because the tomb is empty. Stand firm because Christ is risen. Stand firm because the risen Christ is the treasure of the church.

Reflection Questions

1. What “plausible arguments” are most tempting to you right now?
2. How does the resurrection strengthen your confidence in the sufficiency of Christ?
3. What would it look like for you to stand firm in Christ this week?

Practical Application

Read Colossians 2:4–5 and 1 Corinthians 15:17–20 aloud today. Then thank God specifically that your faith rests in a living Savior, and ask Him to make you steady in Christ this week.

Prayer

God our Father, thank You for raising Your Son from the dead. Thank You that the tomb is empty and that Christ is alive forevermore. Guard me from plausible arguments, spiritual counterfeits, and every lie that would draw my heart away from Christ. Make me firm in faith, steady in hope, and rooted in Your truth. Teach me to stand in the risen Christ, rest in the risen Christ, and live in the power of the risen Christ. In Jesus' name, Amen.