



# Morningside Church

## Sermon Discussion Guide

**Title: Stand Strong**

**Date: May 19, 2024**

**Scripture Text: Colossians 2:1-7**

### **Notes:**

Part of the purpose for the Apostle Paul writing his letter to the Colossian Christians was to encourage them in the faith and to remind them where their true source of strength was, Jesus Christ. It was through their relationship with Christ that they could discern truth from empty deception. The Colossian church was under attack from those wishing to deceive them. When tempted by false teaching, a follower of Jesus, who is willing to compromise, can be a tool for the work of Satan. Nothing is more damaging to the name of Jesus than a compromising Christian. In today's passage, we'll look at five stones that can help a Christian stand strong.

#### **I. Be Encouraged ([Colossians 2:2](#))**

Paul was concerned the Colossian believers would allow themselves to get caught up in false teachings. As a result, he wanted to encourage them to knit themselves together as a church body, pursuing the true knowledge of God, which was Christ himself.

- Why do you think Paul was encouraging the Colossian Christians to 'knit' themselves together when it came to defending themselves against false teaching?
- What are examples of how Morningside can be an encouragement to its members?
- How does being a connected part of a body of believers help equip us against succumbing to temptation?
- What does it mean to be a connected part of the body?
- How connected are you to the body?

#### **II. Be Knit in Love ([Colossians 2:2](#))**

In order to be effectively knit together as a church body the members need to have a genuine love for one another. [Phil 2:3](#) states: "Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves". Jesus tells us "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." ([John 13:35](#)).

- What are the characteristics of a loving church?
- How does a loving church equip its members against false teaching?
- How can you be a more loving member of Morningside?



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### **III. Be Complete in Christ (Colossians 2:2-3)**

As Christians, we find “all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” in Jesus Christ. By having access to this treasure, we can be fully assured of the truth. Any teaching contrary to God’s word is NOT truth. The Bible is the truth against which we measure everything else. It is through our relationship with Jesus we can have wisdom and knowledge of the truth.

- Describe what it means to find all wisdom and knowledge in Jesus Christ?
- Why is it important to remember the source of wisdom and knowledge when we are exposed to contrary teaching?
- [Col. 2:5](#) mentions “good discipline” and “stability of your faith in Christ”. How does discipline help us be stable in our faith in Christ?
- What are ways you need to get better in your disciplined walk with Jesus?

### **IV. Walk in Christ (Colossians 2:6-7a)**

Paul’s practical concern was that believers would not grow in spiritual maturity. The basis of their conduct is Christ’s lordship ([1:15–20](#)) and indwelling ([1:27](#)). The command to continue to walk in him is followed by expressions of what this involved: (1) being rooted; (2) built up; and (3) established in the faith (a legal term meaning “confirmed”) (Blum, Wax)

- Whenever you take a walk with someone, what typically happens?
  - i.e., conversations, keeping pace with each other, attention to the path, etc.
- How do these apply to our spiritual walk with Christ?
- What does it look like to be firmly rooted and established in your faith?
- What are ways you can encourage others in their walk in Christ?

### **V. Be Grateful (Colossians 2:7)**

Paul ends [vs 7](#) with the statement for his readers to be “overflowing with gratitude”. As Christians, regardless of our circumstances, we always have something to be grateful for! Gratitude helps our perspective as we focus on the blessings we experience from God. As a result, we can develop a closer relationship with Him.

- How can an attitude of gratitude help us have a stronger relationship with God?
- [Phil. 4:6](#) tells us to be anxious for nothing, but with thanksgiving let our requests be known to God. How can a thankful heart give us a better perspective of God and our circumstances?
- How can having a heart that is overflowing with gratitude help us ‘stand strong’?