

INTRODUCTION.

- A. For the WAND program, "Five Minutes to Live By."
- B. We live in an ever changing world. That which seems to be solid one day, is fragile the next. That which seems to be a sure thing today, may be moved out of its place tomorrow. The message from God's word today is that you can find permanence in your life by finding X.

I. BE FIRMLY ROOTED (Col. 2:1-3).

- A. In Christ you find... **Encouragement** (2:2a).
The text says, "that their hearts might be comforted." Our English word encourage means "with heart." To encourage people is to renew their heart. It brings out the best in people.
- B. In Christ you find... **Endearment** (2:2b).
The text says, "being knit together in love." The mature Xian loves the brethren and seeks to be a peacemaker, not a troublemaker. He is part of the spiritual unity in the church.
- C. In Christ you find... **Enrichment** (2:2c).
The text says, "unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding." Too many Xians are living like paupers when they could be living like kings. Mature Xians do not complain about what they don't have. Rather, they make use of their vast resources in JC.
- D. In Christ you find... **Enlightenment** (2:2d).
The text says, "the full assurance of understanding." The mature believer has the assurance in his heart that he is a child of God. The spiritual knowledge what he has in X constantly enlightens him and directs him daily.

II. BE SPIRITUALLY ESTABLISHED--Part 1 (Col. 2:4-8).

- A. **The army** (2:5).
 - 1. The words *order* and *steadfastness* are military terms. They describe an army that is solidly united against the enemy.
 - 2. *Order* describes the arrangement of the army in ranks, with each soldier in his proper place. *Steadfastness* pictures soldiers in battle formation, showing a solid front to the enemy.
- B. **The pilgrim** (2:6).
 - 1. The Xian life is compared to a pilgrimage (a journey), and believers must learn to walk.
 - 2. Paul had already encouraged his readers to "walk worthy of the Lord" (1:10), and later he used this image again (3:7; 4:5).
 - 3. We are walk in X the same way we originally received X--by faith. You started with faith and you must continue with faith. This is the only way to make spiritual progress.
- C. **The tree** (2:7a).
 - 1. To be rooted is an agricultural term. The tense of the Greek word means "once and for all having been rooted." Xians are not to be tumbleweeds that have no roots and are tossed about by every wind of doctrine (see Eph. 4:14).
 - 2. Nor are they to be transplanted repeatedly, moving from soil to soil. Xians have been transplanted into X's kingdom (1:13), and that is where we are supposed to stay!

III. BE SPIRITUALLY ESTABLISHED--Part 2 (Col. 2:4-8).

- A. **The building** (2:7b).
 - 1. The idea of being built up is an architectural term. It is given here in the present tense meaning, "being built up." To be edified means to be built up.
 - 2. When we obey X, we are put on a strong foundation and are to grow in grace.
- B. **The school** (2:7c).

1. Paul mentions being confirmed (established) in the faith that we were taught.
 2. To confirm something is to establish as fact that which is doubtful or uncertain.
 3. It is the word of God that builds and strengthens the Xian. Xians who study become established in the faith. Satan has a difficult time deceiving the Bible-taught believer.
- C. **The river** (2:7d).
1. Instead of being a river of blessing and gratitude, Xians are sometimes only a stream or shallow trickle.
 2. The word abounding is often used by Paul. It suggests the picture of a river overflowing its banks. A thankful spirit is a mark of Xian maturity. When a believer is abounding in thanksgiving, he is really making spiritual progress!

IV. **BE NOT TAKEN CAPTIVE (Col. 2:8-10).**

- A. How is it possible for false teachers to capture people? The answer is relatively simple; they captivate those who are ignorant of the truths of God's word.
- B. Three things pull them away:
1. **Empty philosophy.** Philosophy means "to love wisdom." Not all philosophy is wrong for Xians are to love the wisdom of God. But the false teachers offered a hollow or empty philosophy-- there was just nothing to it.
 2. **Deceptive traditions.** Tradition is "that which is handed down." Tradition is not all bad (see 2Th. 2: 15). But the problem here is that these traditions were not totally truthful in their content (deceptive). While purporting to be truth, it was in effect a lie meant to take people away from X.
 3. **Elementary principles of the world.** To be rudimentary, means "one of a row or series." In ancient Greece it was a word used in the religious astrology of the day. It had reference to satanic things, "angels, demons, and heavenly bodies." and you have been made full in Him. Why then, would you need anything else?

V. **SEEK THE HEAVENLY (Col. 3:1-4).**

- A. Within these first 4 verses of chapter 3, Paul mentions 4 things that define or explain our relationship with X.
1. We have died with Him (3:3a).
 2. We have been raised with Him (3:1).
 3. We are hidden in Him (3:3b).
 4. We are to live in Him (3:4a).

CONCLUSION.

- A. The message of the book of Colossians is as timely as our newspapers.