



A new creation focus through Colossians ...

Stability of Your Faith

The winds of evil and destruction are blowing with hurricane force over the entire mass of humanity. A Satanic cabal has been working for hundreds of years to take general control over the information and education channels, so that anti-Biblical prejudice is increasingly rampant across the globe. A belief in evolution is enshrined in the halls of academia, propped up and financed by the government of the U.S.A. The distorting effects of the Darwinian revolution pervade all aspects of public thinking, from dentistry to doctoring, from prescription pills to the cause of pilfering, from society's ills to sexual orientation. In working toward the eradication of the Bible as the base for Western Civilization, a kaleidoscope of celebrities, politicians, media moguls, and talking head professors are paraded before the public, almost all of whom attack the scripture — some with empty-headed bombast, some with carefully crafted argumentations and presentations. In the midst of these hurricane blasts, the saint needs to remember that in Christ "are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." All the brethren also need to recall that the apostle also warned, "I say these things so that no one may delude you with persuasive argument."

- **Paul's rejoicing** — The apostles, in imitation of their mentor Jesus, laid down their lives for the conversion and conservation of the brethren. "I have no greater joy," said the apostle John, "than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth" (3 John 1:4). The apostle Paul, likewise maintained an information network by which he could, to some degree, monitor the progress of the Christians throughout the congregations among which he labored. "For though I am absent in body," comments he to the church at Colossae, "nevertheless I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good discipline and the stability of your faith in Christ" (Colossians 2:5). The winds of confusion were blowing with gale force even in those days, attempting to topple the standard of Christ and dislodge the faith of the brethren. Paul, though not physically present, assured them that he was spiritually with them, and this would comfort and encourage them. Having kept track of their progress in the gospel, he was excited that they were exercising good discipline, and that their faith was not being shaken by the terrors of persecution, the mind-bending philosophies of men, or the winds of false doctrine.

- **Receiving Christ** — The scripture uses the phrase "received Christ" in a couple of locations. Many moderns have shifted the wording to "accepted Christ," and then have imposed the idea that "Christ can be accepted by inviting Him into your heart." These are the sorts of false doctrines the word of God warns about. When Jesus spoke to the Jewish leadership, He commented, "I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another shall come in his own name, you will receive him" (John 5:43). The word *receive* has to do with a willingness to recognize the claimed authority or position of the individual. "He came to His own," the apostle John noted, concerning Jesus' positioning Himself in the midst of the Jews, "and those who were His own did not receive Him." They, for the most part, were unwilling to recognize who He was. "But," he added, "as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become [at some future date] children of God" (John 1:11,12). Thus, when Paul commands, "As therefore you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him," he is noting that the brethren recognized Jesus' authority as King and Lord, and that they were to govern themselves accordingly (Colossians 2:6).

The brethren were stable because they were willing to abide in the teaching or doctrine of Christ. Even though the picture of Christ in glory was already being attacked, the apostles' doctrine being challenged and twisted, and the only source of revelation being subverted, these blessed and faithful brethren were holding fast. May we imitate their faith in today's climate!

**The brethren are
stable when they
abide in doctrine
of Christ.**