



KING FOREVER

Week 4 | Seek the King

| KEY THOUGHTS

- **How does a person receive Christ?** The Holy Spirit opens our eyes to our sin and our spiritual deadness; the Father draws us to Jesus; we hear the gospel; and our spirits are quickened to new life as we reject self-leadership and accept Jesus's lordship. **None of this is our idea; it's entirely a gift from God, given by His grace.**
- We continue with Him the same way we started: **by His grace, not by our own efforts.**
- In our coming to faith, **all we bring to the table is death and debt; Jesus brings everything else.**
- **Grace can be a stumbling block** to some, because it's so unfair, or humbling, or even embarrassing.
- It's difficult to realize that Jesus did all of it! **We can't pay Him back or prove ourselves worthy (because we're not!);** any attempt to do so is what Paul calls self-made religion.
- "Sin" isn't just doing bad things; **sin is doing *anything*, even good or religious things, in independence from God.**
- **Grace requires dependence upon God**, and that's what makes grace chafe our sinful hearts.
- So if we don't respond to grace by trying to earn it or pay God back, what's the appropriate response? **Accept it, and enjoy it!**
- Paul tells us how to do that: **Seek Christ, and set your mind on Him.** Delight in His work on your behalf and let it overwhelm you.

| SCRIPTURE

⁶ Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

Colossians 2:6-7 (ESV)

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Ephesians 2:8-9 (ESV)

⁸ See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹ For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰ and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. ¹¹ In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹² having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³ And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him. ¹⁶ Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. ¹⁷ These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. ¹⁸ Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, ¹⁹ and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God. ²⁰ If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations— ²¹ “Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch” ²² (referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to human precepts and teachings? ²³ These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.

Colossians 2:8-23 (ESV)

¹ If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³ For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Colossians 3:1-4 (ESV)

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.

Luke 19:10 (ESV)

| PRACTICAL

- If you're in Christ, accept and enjoy the gift He's given you, and spend time with Him. That's why Jesus did what He did: so we could be with Him!
- Read Colossians 2:9-15, one verse a day. Meditate on the meaning of each verse. Allow it to move you to worship, to thank Jesus for all He's done.
- Pick up a copy of *Christian Beliefs* by Wayne Grudem and read chapters 12-15.
- If you're not in Christ, you can accept this wonderful gift—and that's all you need to do; simply accept it. There's no ritual you must perform, no cleaning up of your life before you can receive it. He's offering it to you now, and it can be yours now.

| REFLECT

- If my life exhibits no evidence of a new, transformed life after coming to Christ, have I really received His gift of grace? Or did I just follow some man-made religious act?
- Do I feel drawn to this grace, desiring to know the Jesus I'm hearing about and live in this kind of freedom? If so, the Holy Spirit is inviting me to accept Jesus's gift. What's preventing me from receiving it?
- If I have a hard time simply enjoying God's grace, what act do I think I could possibly commit that would cause God to love me less? What could I do that could make Him love me more? There is nothing I can do to change God's love for me. I can rest in that!
- Compare what Christ brought to the table as described in today's scripture with what I brought. Realize that God knows how deeply sinful I am, but how very much He loves me.

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