

# STRENGTH FOR AND THROUGH COMMUNITY

Colossians 1.29-2.8

## A LABOR OF LOVE

Colossians 1.29, 2.1 // 1 Corinthians 15.10 // 1 Thessalonians 1.2, 3

**God's power doesn't negate our need for hard work and responsibility, but rather, it enables and empowers it to be effective.**

Philippians 2.12, 13 // Acts 17.28 // 2 Timothy 2.1 // Titus 2.11, 12

**God motivates us *from* acceptance, not toward it.**  
-J.D. Greear

## PAUL'S PRAYER FOR HEALTH THROUGH UNITY

Colossians 2.1-3 // Hebrews 3.13 // James 5.16

**Being built up and strengthened in the grace of God is a community project.**

## HOW ARE WE BUILT UP?

Colossians 2.4-7 // Ephesians 4.16

"**Rooted**" and "**established**" are both in the past-perfect verb tense, meaning that they were done already in the past as a finished action.

"**Built up**" is in the present-perfect verb tense, which means it could better be read as "being built up," signifying that *since* we have already for sure been rooted and established by the work of Christ, *now* we are being built up in Him.

Notice that Paul does not say that we should walk to Him, for Him, with Him, or by Him, but rather that we should walk *in Him*.

**We have received Christ by grace through faith, and so we walk by grace through faith.**



## NOTES:

### Other Suggested Resources:

**A sermon by Sam Storms called "Why Community is an Act of War."**

[www.bridgewaychurch.com/sermons/sermon/2013-07-28/why-community-is-an-act-of-war](http://www.bridgewaychurch.com/sermons/sermon/2013-07-28/why-community-is-an-act-of-war)

### **Daily Devotionals:**

**Monday:** Colossians 1.29, 2.1 // 1 Corinthians 15.10

**Tuesday:** Philippians 2.12, 13 // 1 Thessalonians 1.2, 3

**Wednesday:** Acts 17.28 // 2 Timothy 2.1

**Thursday:** Colossians 2.1-3 // Titus 2.11, 12

**Friday:** Hebrews 3.13 // James 5.16

**Saturday:** Colossians 2.4-7 // Ephesians 4.16

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

### HARVEST FESTIVAL!

Join us as we partner with Light & Life School for a **Harvest Festival** on Friday, **October 25th** from 5:30 – 8:30pm. There will be fun for the whole family with carnival games, bounce houses, petting zoo, concessions and **LIVE music** from the Life Mission worship band!

How can you help? **We NEED volunteers and donations!** You can sign up using the insert card in your bulletin, or visit the Connection Booth in the courtyard. Email Audra for more information at [audra@lifemission.tv](mailto:audra@lifemission.tv)

### KIDS ON MISSION

Please log on to check out [www.lifemissionchurch.com](http://www.lifemissionchurch.com) and click "Kids" at the top to read more about the vision and plan we have for our kids, including Pastor Jobey's heart and his walk through of our curriculum.

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**Jesus + Nothing = Everything**  
**Reading Plan**

Chapter 4, pages 45-55



## SAVE.

Jesus was sent to save. We have been saved to be sent. We are sent into our community to share the Good News that Christ came to save us, and we hope to see many who find new life.

## EQUIP.

We want to equip those very people in the Word so that they can continue to grow as disciples of Christ. From our preschool to our adults, our passion is to see everyone equipped in the Gospel to live a life of freedom and joy.

## SEND.

Lastly, we then want to see those equipped people sent into their community and world. From schools and playgrounds, to families and work places, we want to see people who are spiritual leaders in their life, showing people the truth of Christ's Good News.

## CONTACT US:

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## COMMUNITY GROUP HOMEWORK

Read **Colossians 1.29-2.8**. What stuck out to you the most or was the most impactful from the message on Sunday or from these verses? \_\_\_\_\_

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Two Sundays ago, Jobey said that "the Gospel is not about work, but about God's work done on our behalf. Read again **Colossians 1.29**, as well as **1 Corinthians 15.10** and **1 Thessalonians 1.2, 3**. Do these verses seem to contradict that statement? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

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Read **James 2.17-26**. What do you think James is saying here? \_\_\_\_\_

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The heart of the proper place of our works and labor should fit in our life could possibly be summed up in the statement in the sermon notes that "God motivates us *from* acceptance, not *toward* acceptance." Explain that in your own words, and if possible, your own experience. \_\_\_\_\_

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How do you suppose God has intended for us to constantly retain the perspective and attitude of working hard *from* acceptance and not *toward* acceptance?

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Even as James alluded to, our works are a byproduct of our faith, and our faith should be "rooted and established" (**Colossians 2.3**) in the "full assurance" that comes from the "understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery," aka, "which is Christ" and the Gospel He gave us. The more we understand and have intimate knowledge in the Gospel, the more our hearts are changed, and then our actions follow.

In **Colossians 2.1-3**, Paul lets them in on his struggle as he gives himself to prayer on their behalf. What specifically is his prayer that would happen to them, and what does he believe will be the fruit of the thing he desires for them? \_\_\_\_\_

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Read **Hebrews 3.13** and **Philippians 1.27, 28**. Paul believed that when believers' hearts are being knit together, a strength occurs that is unable to happen in other ways. But the purpose of this knitting together is not simply for the sake of having friends, but it is for the sake of reaching "all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." How does being knit together with Gospel friendships help bring full assurance and confidence in your faith?

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Who in your life do you share this "knit heart" in the Gospel? How can you be more proactive in your "labor of love" to "toil" and strive to pursue building up of others and you yourself being built up by them? \_\_\_\_\_

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