



MATURITY IN CHRIST: THE GOAL
TO LABOR FOR

Colossians 1:28 - 2:10



Introduction

- Colossians.. troubled by false teachings which threaten their faith.
- Salvation : faith in Christ plus 'secret knowledge' and human regulations (circumcision, eating and drinking and observance of religious festivals)

- Paul's goal for them:
- Fully mature in Christ....to counter the heresy
- Gives them 'strategic plans' to achieve this



Colossians 1:28-2:2

- He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully **mature in Christ**.
- To this end I **strenuously contend** with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.
- I want you to know how hard I am contending for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally. ² My **goal** is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding... Christ,

The goal of Paul's labor

- present everyone fully mature in Christ. (1:28)
- have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, ³ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. (2:2-3)

Fully mature in Christ

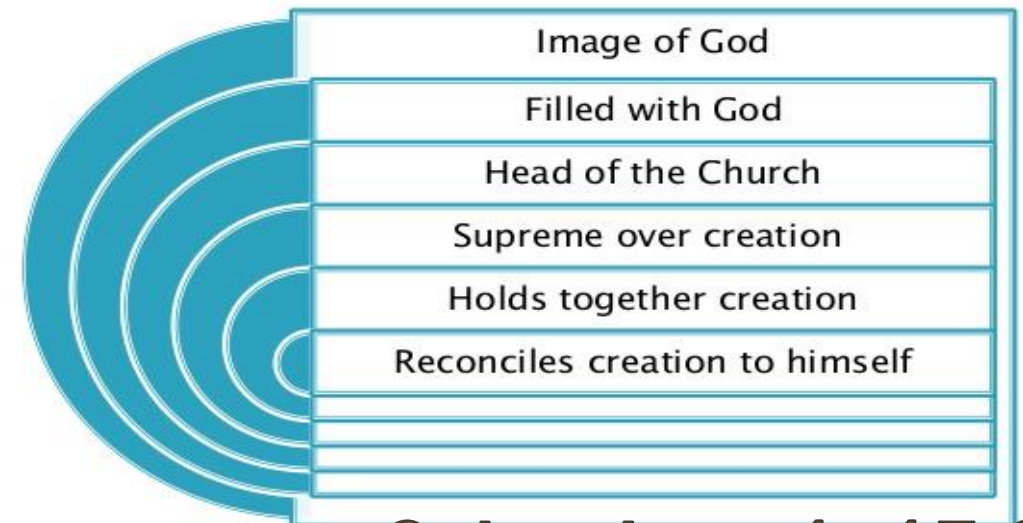
- Depends on a complete understanding /knowledge of Christ
- Not be shaken by false teachings...stable faith

He is the One.....

- **He** is the one we proclaim admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully **mature in Christ**.

He is the
Supreme Christ

Supremacy of Christ



Colossians 1: 15-20

To this end..... I strenuously contend

strenuously contend.....

- labor, striving (Amplified BV)
- work hard, doing my best (Message)
- Not a stroll in the park, but a **priority** to work hard for.

Problems faced....

False teachings

- ⁴ I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments
- ⁸ See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.

Fine-sounding arguments

- Deny Christ as the sufficient saviorthey claim to have the 'secret knowledge' for salvation

Hollow philosophy

¹⁶ Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. ¹⁷ These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ. ¹⁸ Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you. Such a person also goes into great detail about what they have seen; they are puffed up with idle notions by their unspiritual mind.

- Jewish mythologies:
- mixture of rituals and belief in angels (2:16-18)

Colossians 2:20-23



²⁰ Therefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations – ²¹“Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle,” ²²which all concern things which perish with the using – **according to the commandments and doctrines of men?** ²³These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in **self-imposed religion**, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.

- Not subject to them as we have died with Christ to them
- No true spiritual value

Galatians 1:6-7

- ⁶I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— ⁷which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ.

- False teachings ...pervert the gospel of Christ.
- Danger of turning from the true gospel.
- 'no gospel' - false assurance of salvation.

Problems faced....

- False teachings ... seek to derail their faith

Caused:

- Discouragement of heart
- Disunity

- 'they may be encouraged in heart and united in love'

Disunity: factions

- ¹⁰ I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought.

(1 Corinthians 1: 10-13)

- ¹² What I mean is this: One of you says, “I follow Paul”; another, “I follow Apollos”; another, “I follow Cephas”; still another, “I follow Christ.”
- ¹³ Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized in the name of Paul?



Danger of false teachings.....

- are deceiving and captivating

our hearts are deceptive....
inclined to these
false teachings

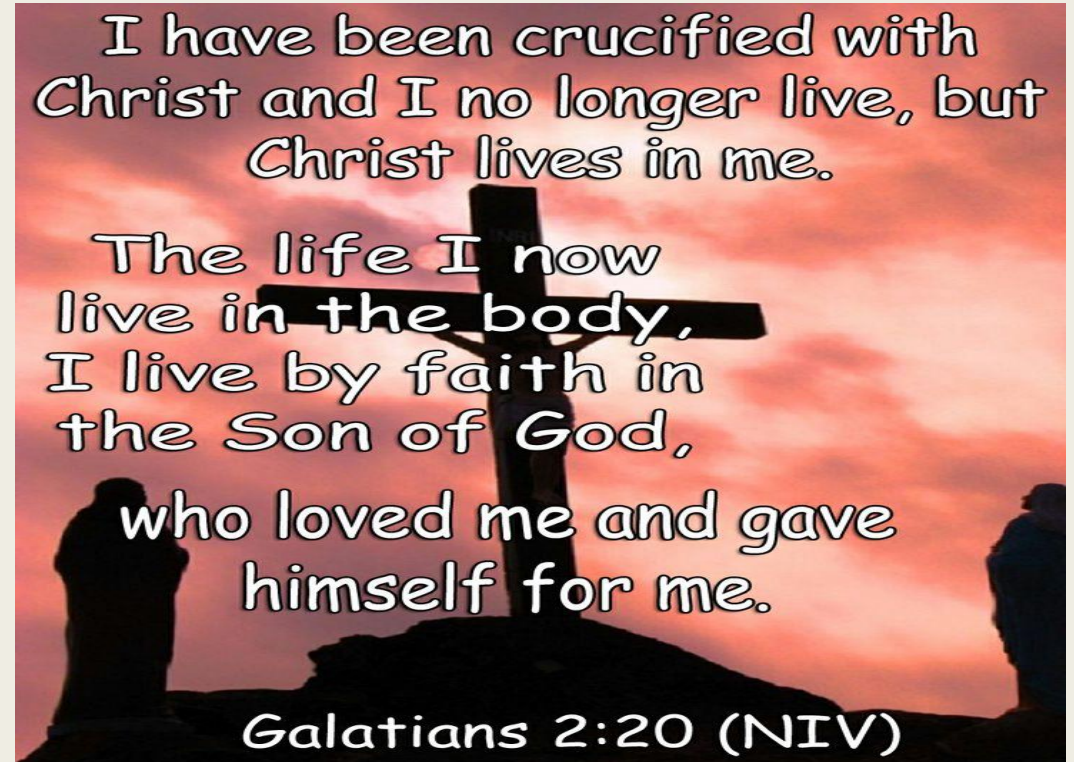
How to grow into maturity?

- Obedience to Christ as Lord
- Rooted and built up in Word
- Overflow with thanksgiving



Growth: Starting point

- ⁶ So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him,
- Christ as Lord..... Obedience to Him only.
- Not only Savior but Lord and King





Lord over the whole
of our life, not only
part of it



JESUS,
THE LORD OF YOUR LIFE

Over

POSSESSIONS

PEOPLE

MONEY

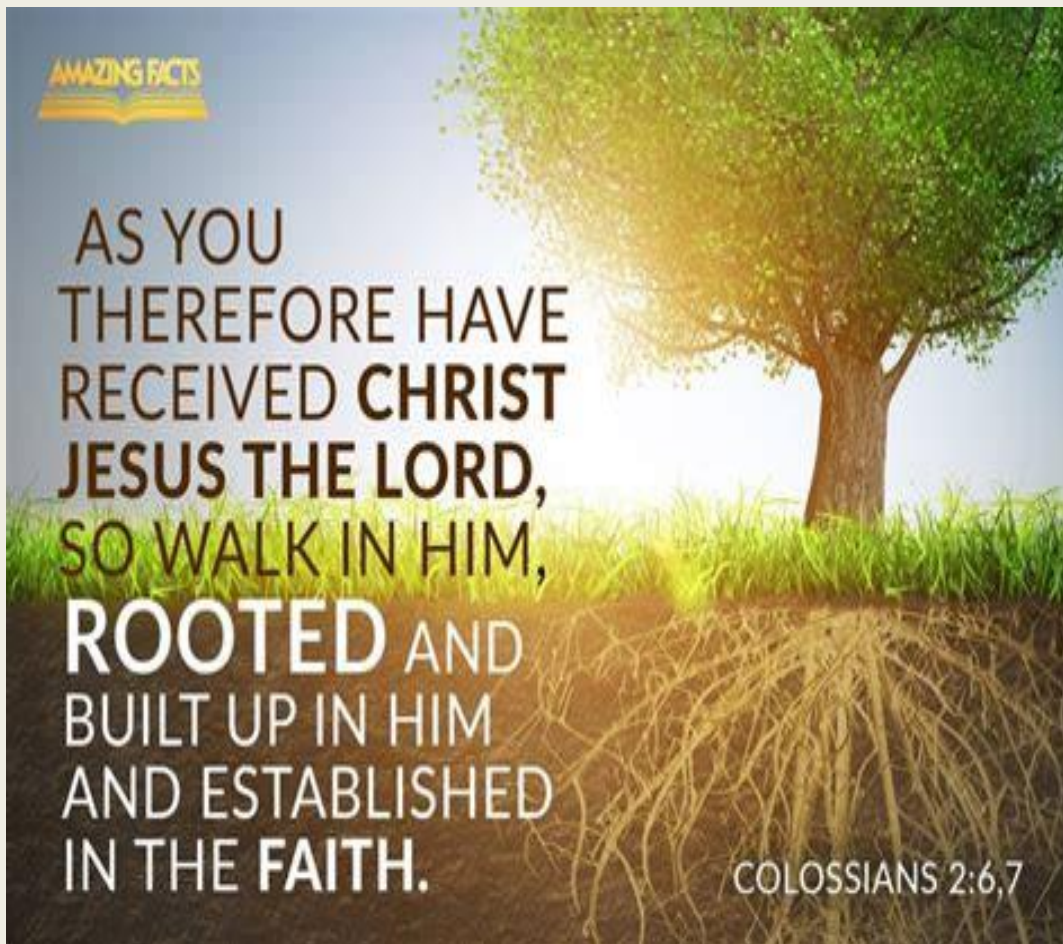
TIME



NO ONE CAN
SERVE TWO
MASTERS

Matthew 6:24

Growth: built up in faith



AS YOU
THEREFORE HAVE
RECEIVED **CHRIST**
JESUS THE LORD,
SO WALK IN HIM,
ROOTED AND
BUILT UP IN HIM
AND ESTABLISHED
IN THE **FAITH.**

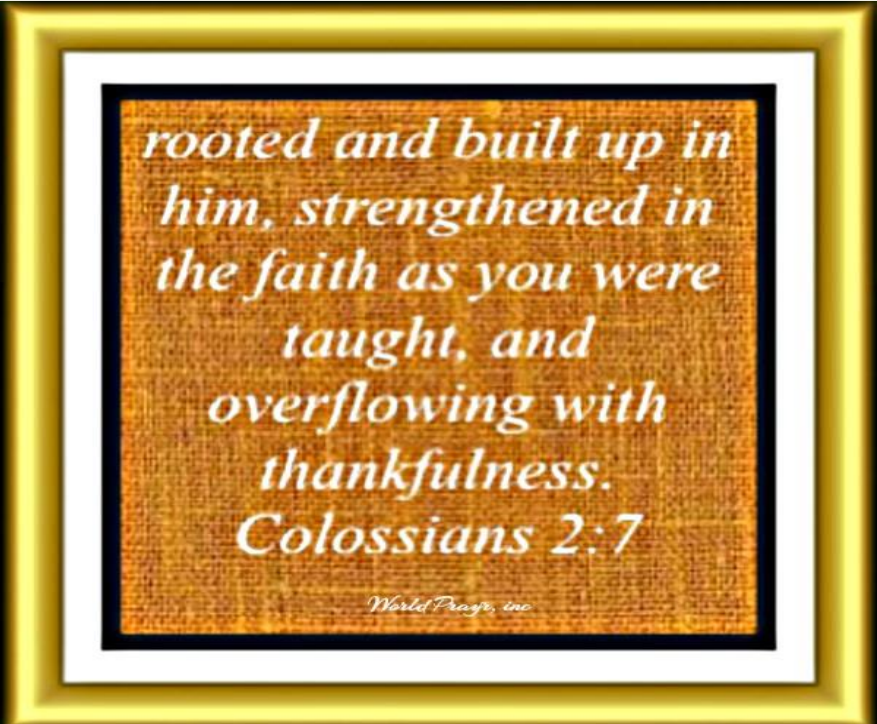
COLOSSIANS 2:6,7

double metaphor
for growth

- Downwards: Roots grow deep into the soil /foundation
- Upward: depends on good 'rooting' / strong foundation

Growth: How?

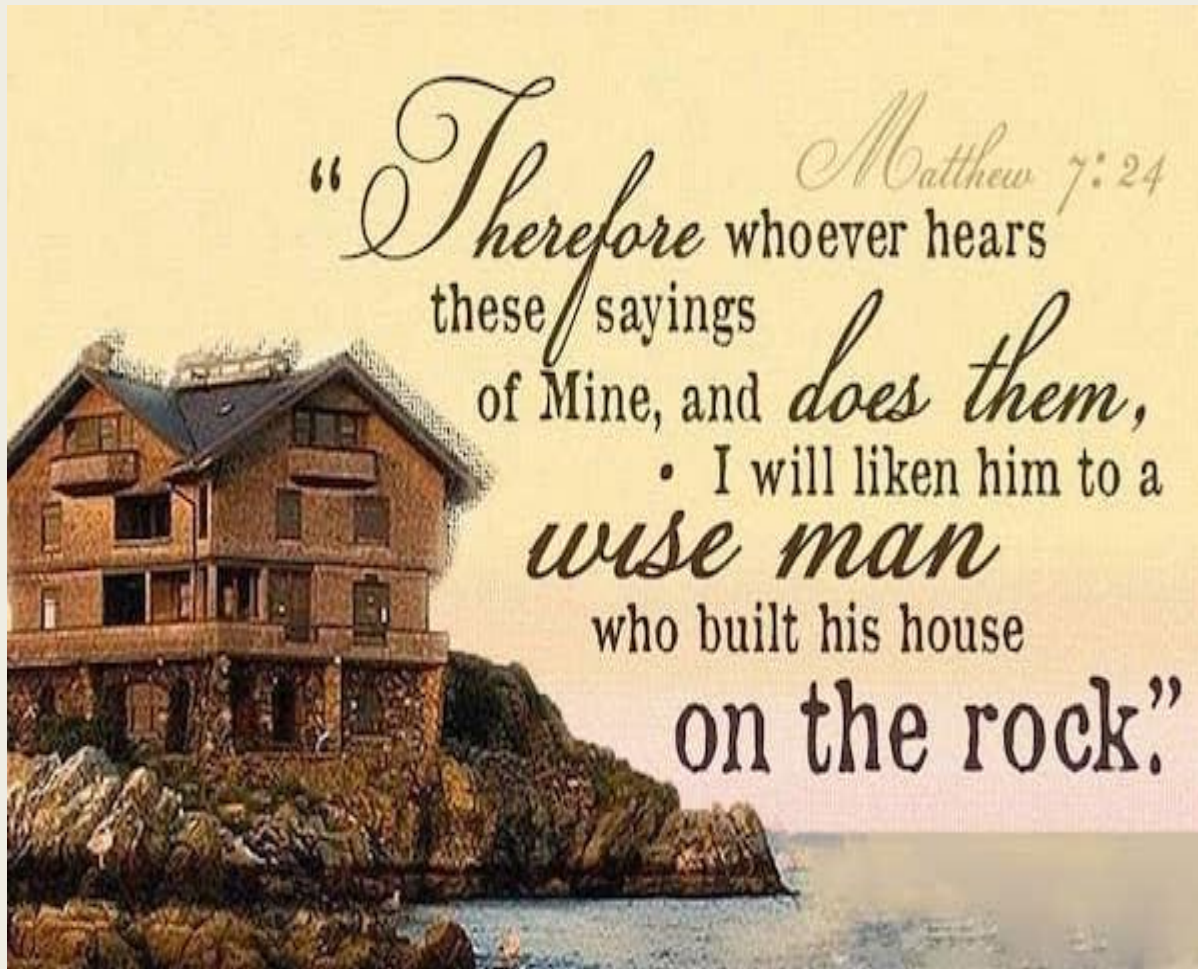
- as you were taught....Word
- overflowing with thankfulness.

A square graphic with a gold border and a white inner border. The background is a textured orange-brown color. The text is in a white, italicized serif font. The quote is: "rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness." Below the quote is the reference "Colossians 2:7".

*rooted and built up in
him, strengthened in
the faith as you were
taught, and
overflowing with
thankfulness.
Colossians 2:7*

World Preps, inc

Rooted in the wordstable foundation



Spiritual growth come by:

- Hearing (studying) /obeying the Word..
- Lead to strengthening of faith

Word of God.. appropriate weapon

The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.

We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

2 Corinthians 10:4-5

Spiritual battles:

- Strongholds : mindsets and beliefs against the knowledge of God which are difficult to overcome
- Word...weapon as used by Jesus (Matthew 4)



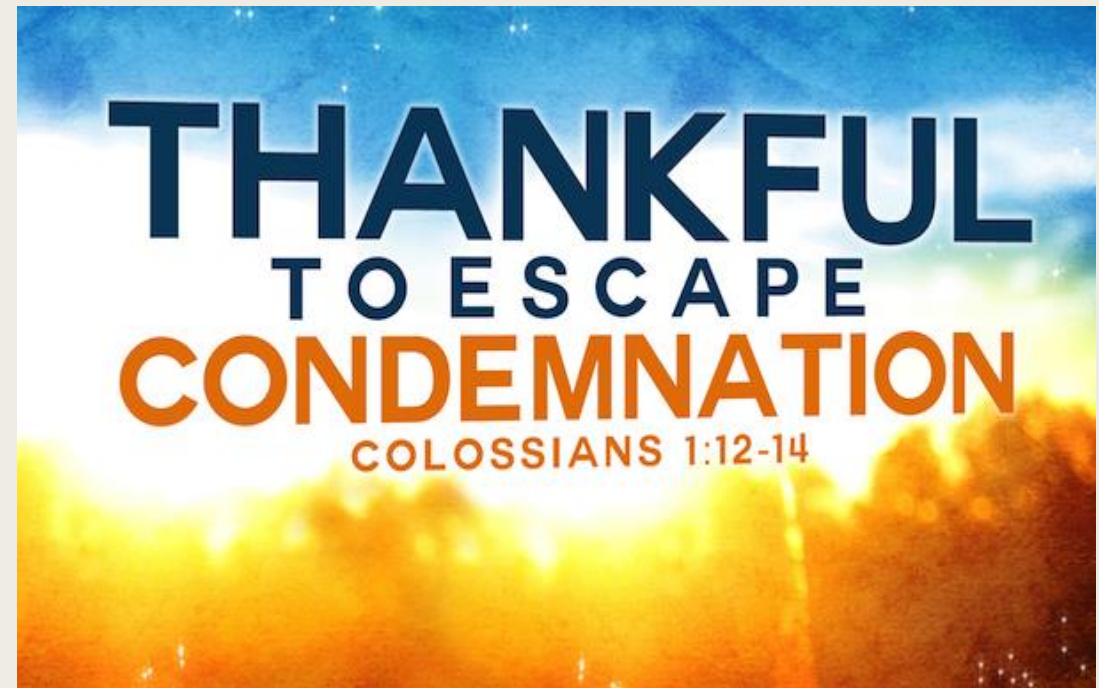
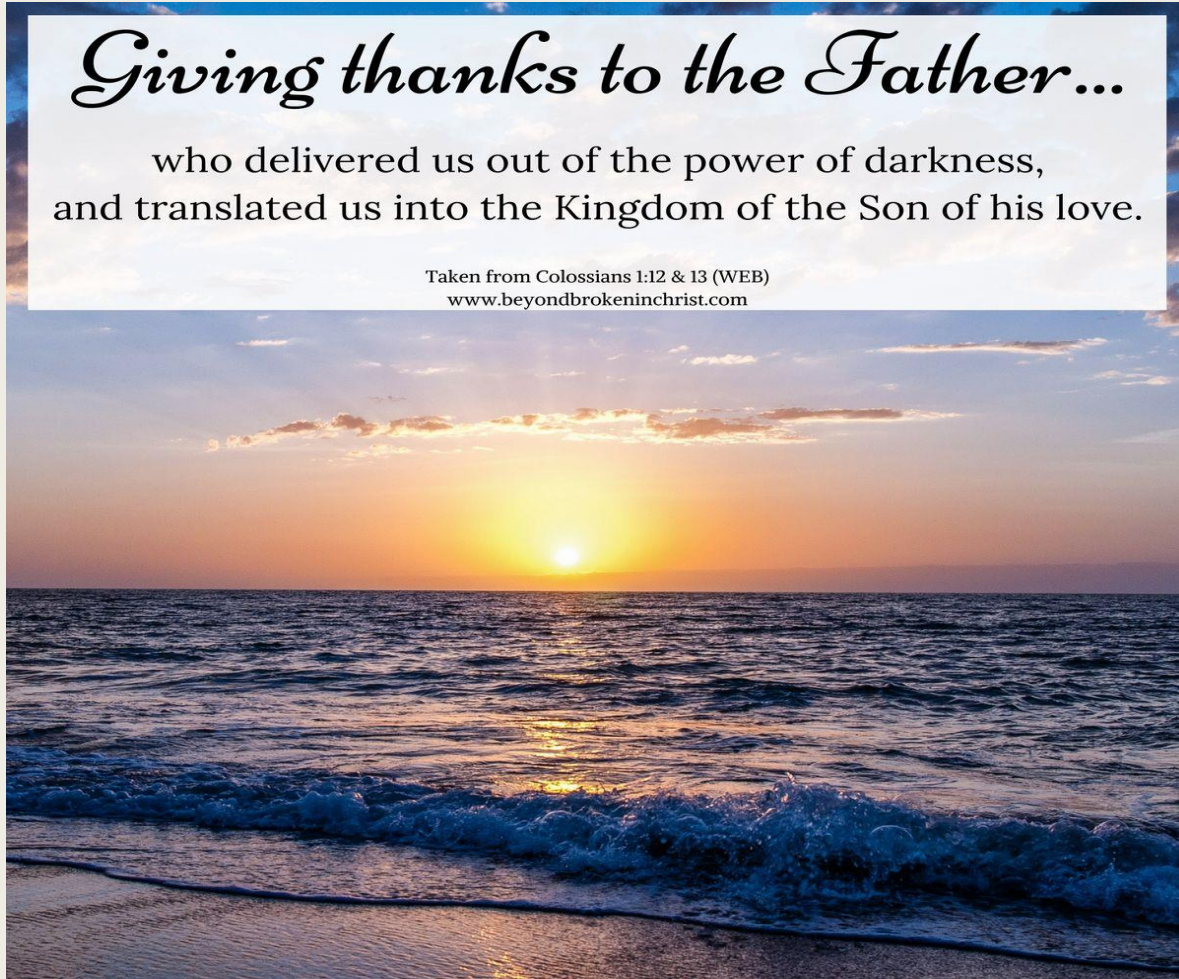
- Word ...sword of the Spirit
- Fight spiritual battles.
- Prayer....power behind the weapons

Rooted in Thanksgiving

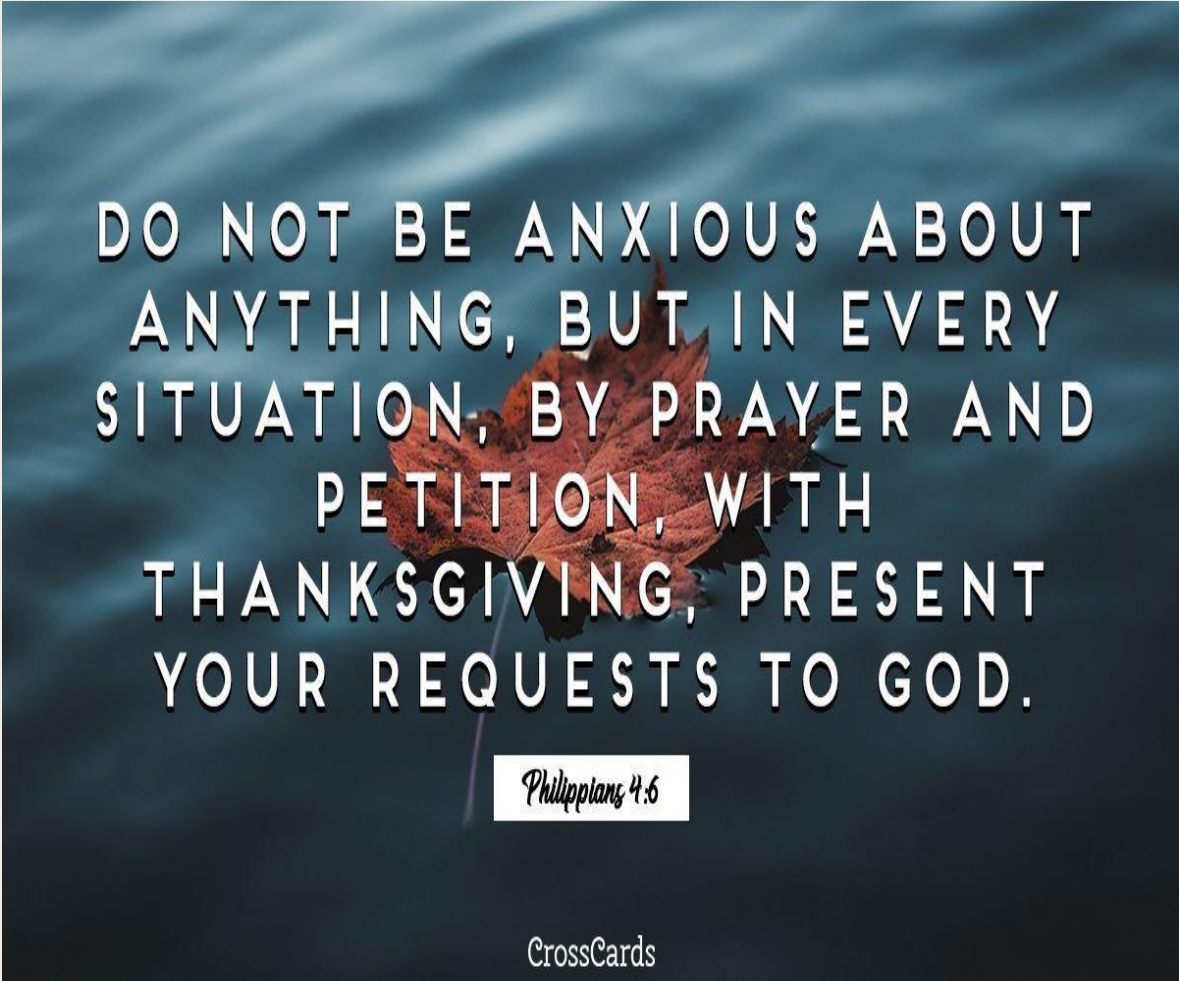
Giving thanks to the Father...

who delivered us out of the power of darkness,
and translated us into the Kingdom of the Son of his love.

Taken from Colossians 1:12 & 13 (WEB)
www.beyondbrokeninchrist.com



Rooted in thanksgiving



DO NOT BE ANXIOUS ABOUT
ANYTHING, BUT IN EVERY
SITUATION, BY PRAYER AND
PETITION, WITH
THANKSGIVING, PRESENT
YOUR REQUESTS TO GOD.

Philippians 4:6

CrossCards

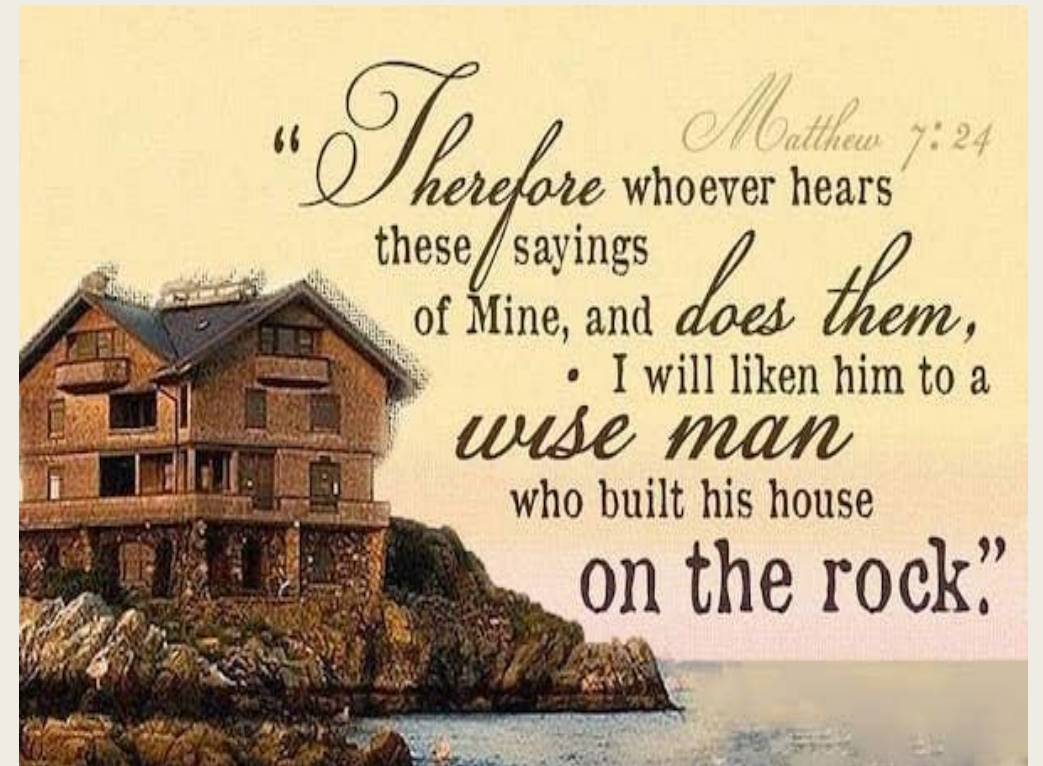
Do not be anxious:

- Commit our cares to Him with thanksgiving
- Leave our cares in the Lord's hand.
- Thankfulness....grounded on trust in the Lord.

Fullness of deity in Christ:

- ⁹ For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, ¹⁰ and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority.

Solid foundation
of faith



*In him lie hidden
all the treasures of
wisdom and knowledge.*

*Colossians
2:3*



www.BornToWin.net

- Fullness of Christ
- Everything we might want to ask about God and His purposes can and must now be answered with reference to the crucified and risen Jesus, the Messiah. (N T Wright)

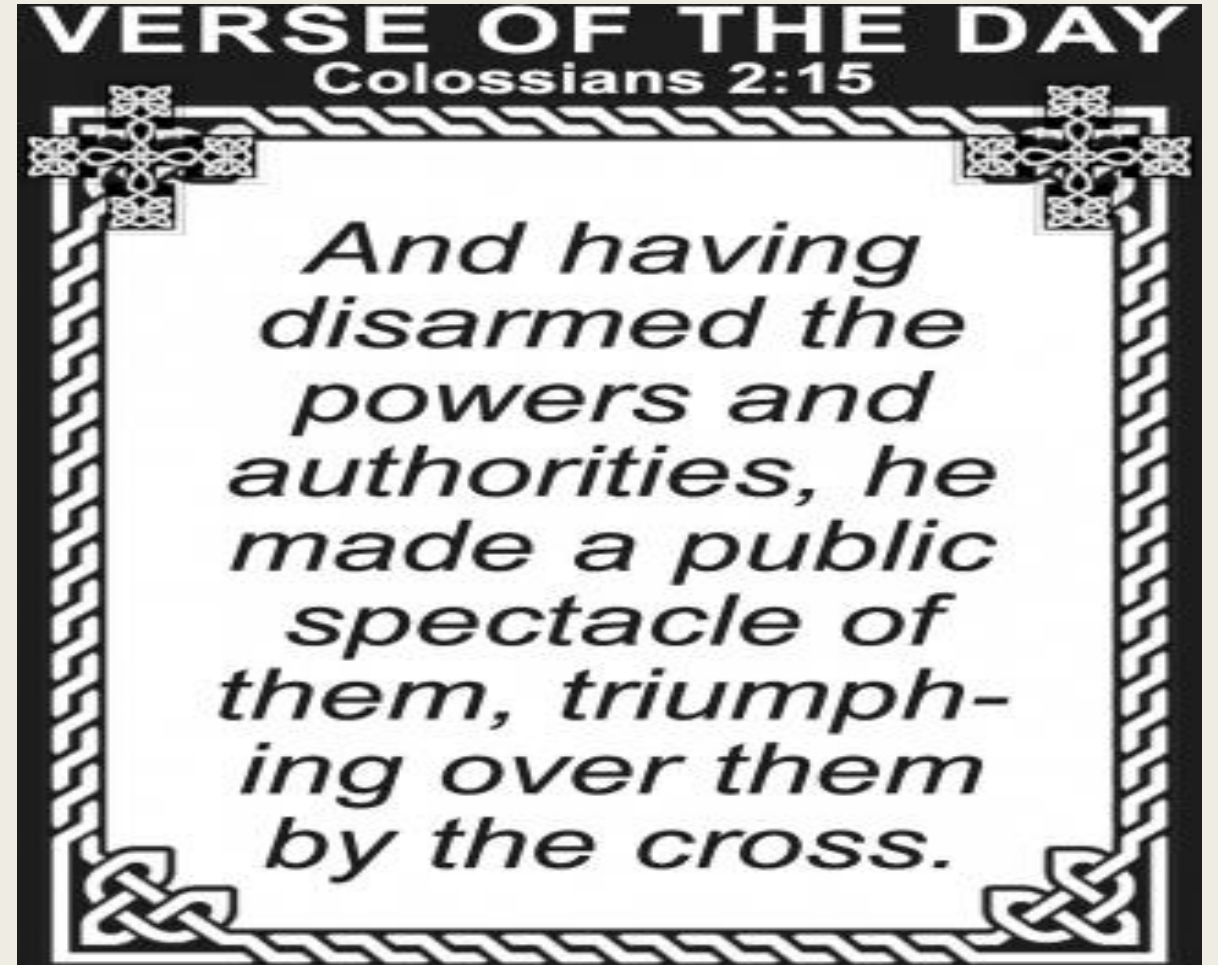
Brought to fullness

- Christ is all we need for salvation
- Christ is all we need for sanctification
- Christ is the strong foundation of our Faith

Assured of our salvation
because of Christ

Victory in Christ

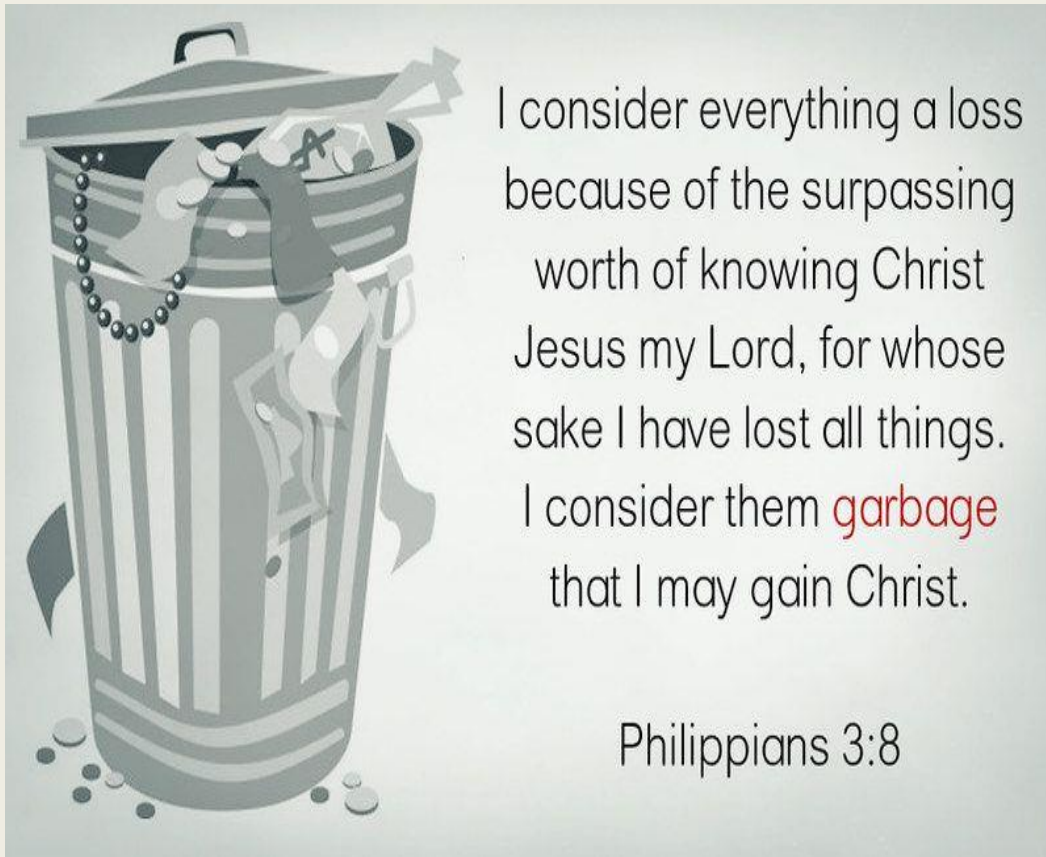
God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, canceled our legal indebtedness, which condemned us; nailing it to the cross. Colossians 2:13-14



Lessons:

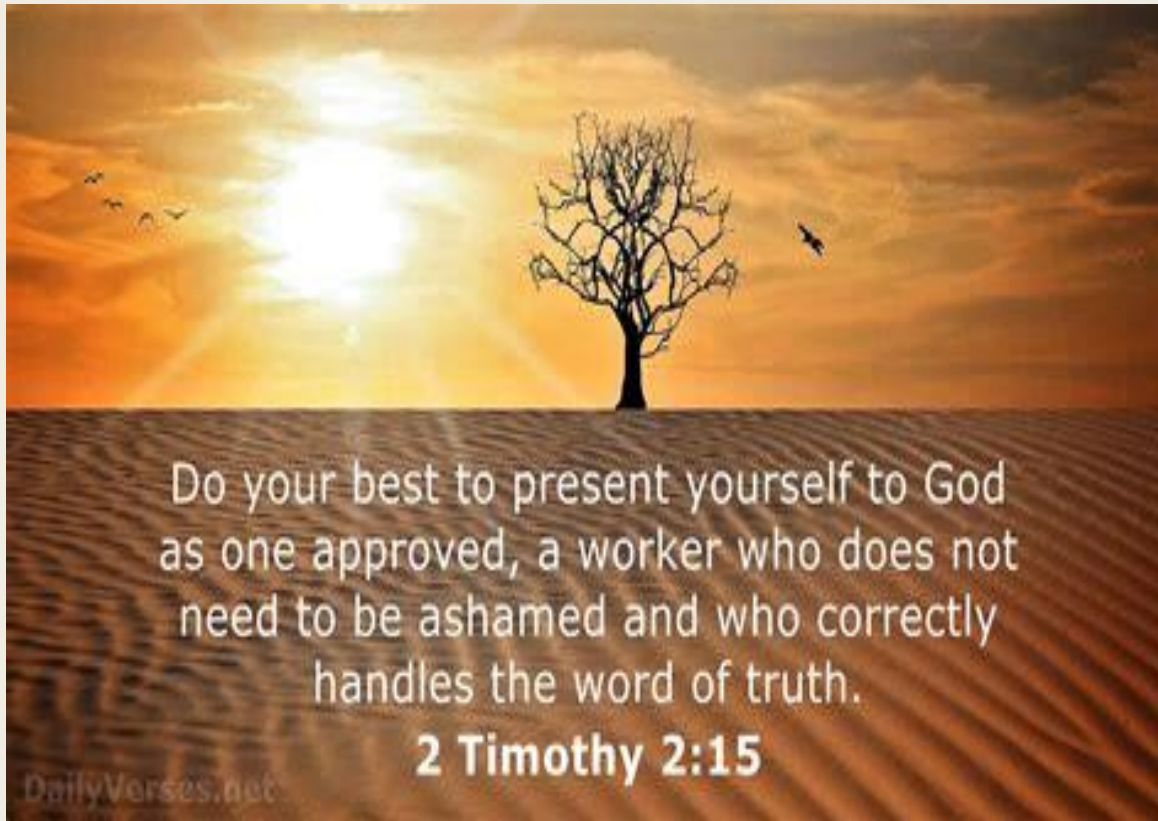
- Maturity in Christ should be our goal.
- Need to labor for it.
- Maturity ... intimate knowledge of Christ.
- Word ...key tool to achieve maturity through the knowledge of Christ.

Intimate knowledge of Christ



- Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord...(NLT)
- I want to know Christ ... the power of His resurrection (3:10)

Maturity: know the Word



Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

2 Timothy 2:15

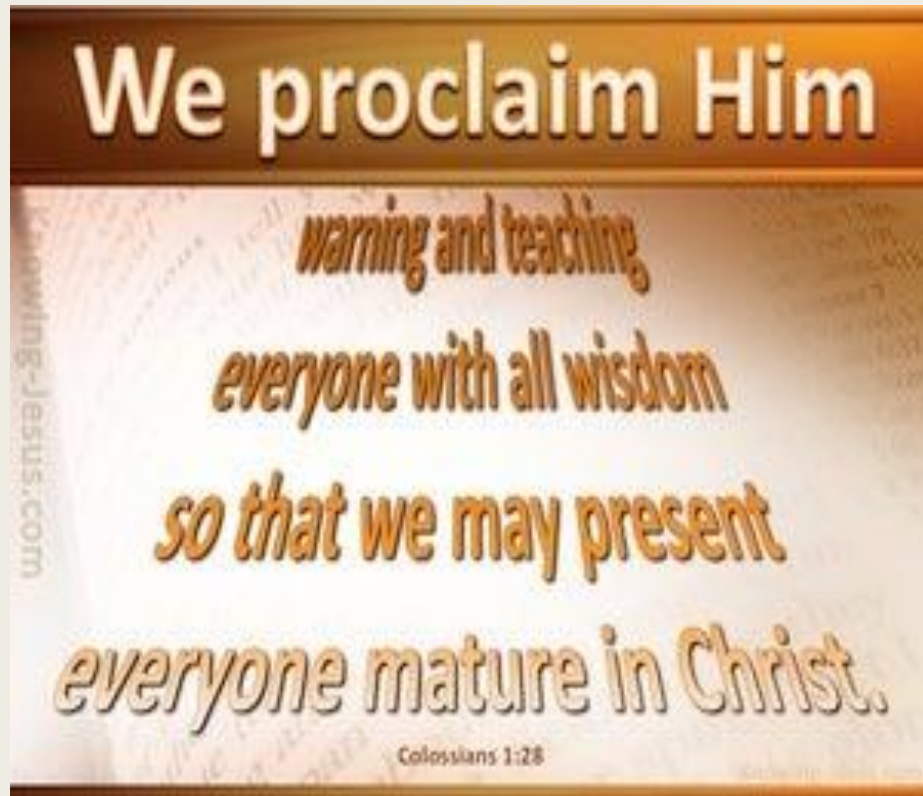
DailyVerses.net

Study the Word

*All scripture is
inspired by God
and is useful for
teaching, rebuking,
correcting and training.*

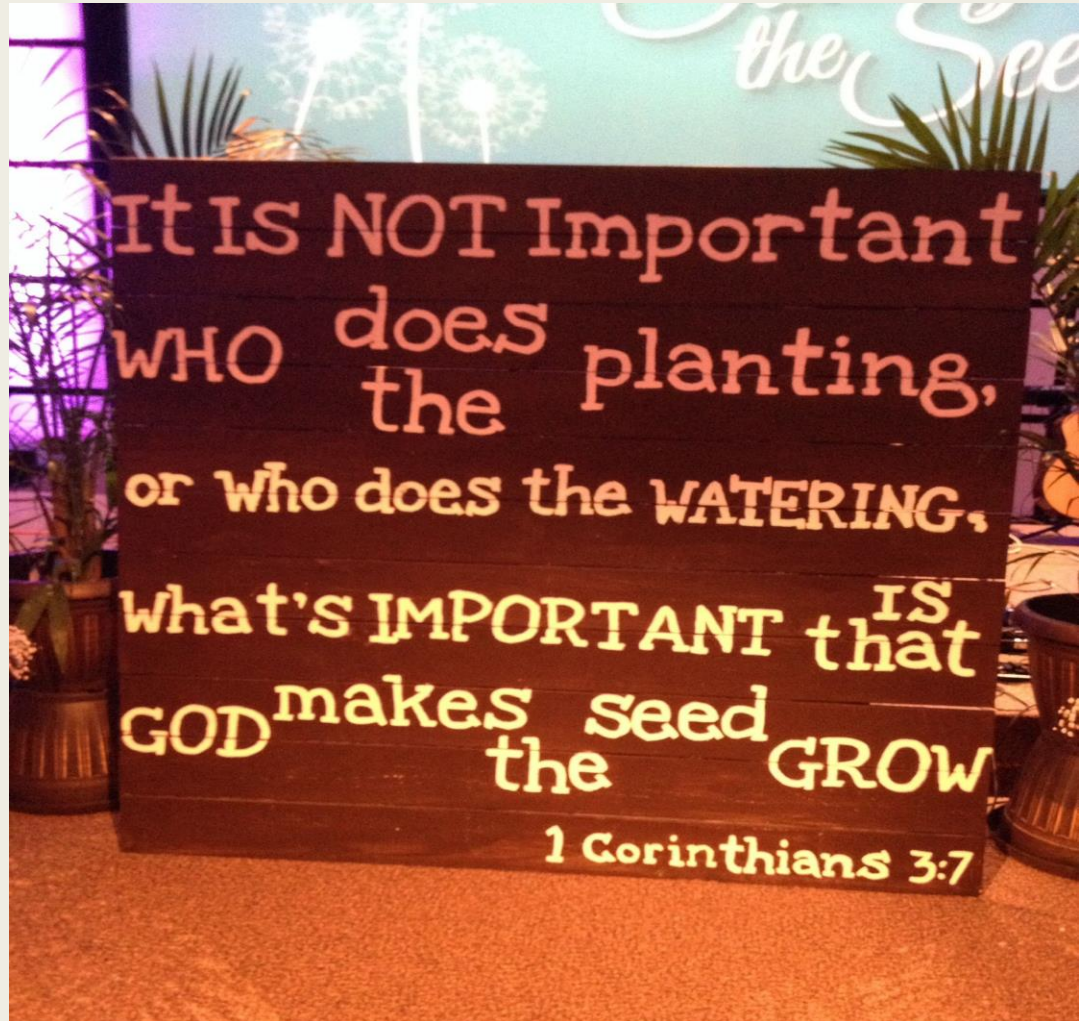
II Timothy 3:16

Goal to work for



- BCLS course
- Bible study in small groups
- Pulpit teachings/ seminars

Growth is from God



“So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth;

but God

that giveth the increase.”

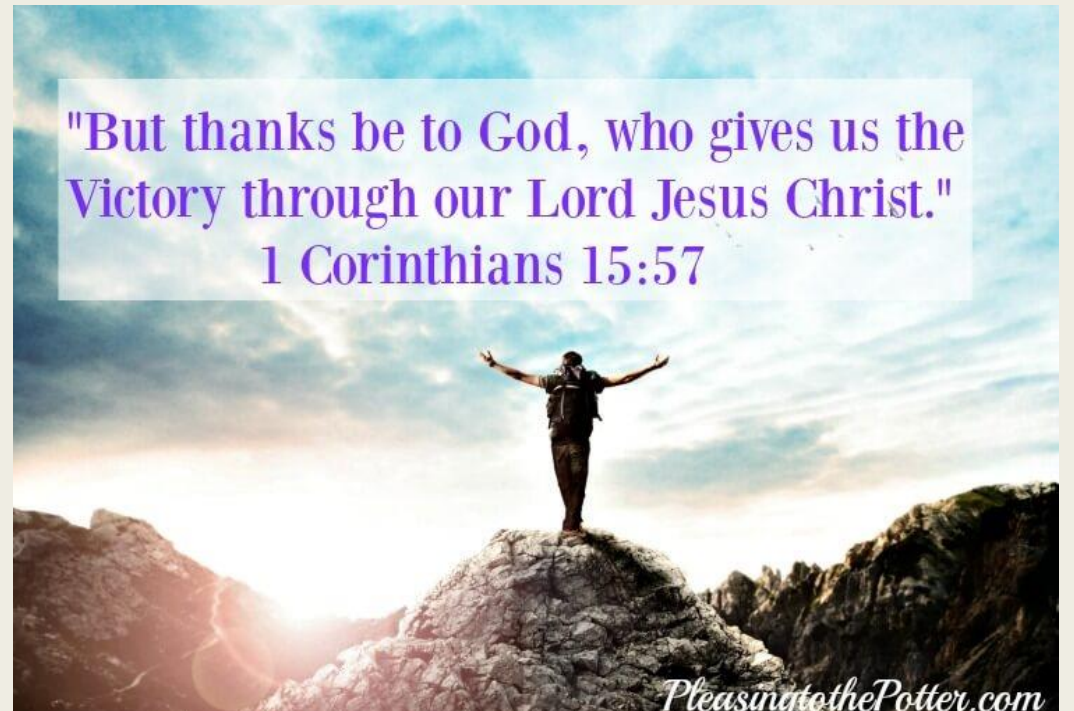


1 Corinthians 3:7

Victory over

- Discouragement at home, school, office or even in church
- Disunity ... strained relationships

Growing into maturity in Christ.... enable us to overcome them.



"But thanks be to God, who gives us the Victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."
1 Corinthians 15:57

I want to know Christ... fully mature in Christ

- ¹² Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.
- ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead,

