

# Readings

## Scripture

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

- Colossians 2:6-7 (English Standard Version)

## Reflection

What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.

- A.W. Tozer, *Knowledge of the Holy*, 1

“Christians walking in Christ by being well rooted like a tree, solidly built like a house, confirmed and settled like a legal document, and overflowing like a jug full of wine.”

- N.T. Wright on Colossians 2:7

“Obviously, roots have more substance than meets the eyes since, for the most part, they’re hidden from our eyes. Much more happens under the ground, out of sight, than you might realize. Though unseen, roots tell quite a story about the tree we see. Without roots, a tree could not survive.”

- Tim Wesemann, *Rooted Experience Workbook*, 6

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

- Genesis 1:1 (English Standard Version)

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ... <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

- John 1:1-5, 14 (English Standard Version)

<sup>7</sup>“Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. <sup>8</sup>He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit.”

- Jeremiah 17:7-8 (English Standard Version)

<sup>5</sup>I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

- John 15:5 (English Standard Version)

# Sermon Outline

## Rooted in Christ

Colossians 2:6-7

*The Rooted Experience*

Matt Esswein

*The life of Jesus Christ creates unique communities of disciples rooted in grace that worship their risen Lord and find themselves compelled to give that life away...*

**Who is the God of the Bible? What is his story?** (Genesis 1:1; John 1:1-5; Colossians 2:6)

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**What does it mean to be rooted in the grace of Jesus Christ?** (Colossians 2:6-7)

- To receive Christ Jesus as Lord in all areas of life...
- To follow Christ Jesus as Lord in all areas of life...

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**Reflection Questions** (taken in part from the *Serendipity Study Bible for Groups*)

- If you were to ask some people you crossed paths with today, who is God? What might they say?
- Why does a tree or plant need roots? What are some things roots do for a plant?
- Reading Colossians 2:6-7, what does “rooted and built up” imply to you? Is it possible for Christ to be the first step and something else the second step in the Christian life?
- Which image used in Colossians 2:7 resonates with you most? (*Rooted*, *built up* like a House, *established* like a legal document, *abounding* like a jug of wine.)
- Consider your story. When did God create your roots of faith? What people and experiences helped grow and nourish your faith in Jesus?
- What happens when we approach the Bible with a salad bar mentality, picking and choosing what we believe to be true and what we don’t want any part of?
- How has God’s Word nourished your roots of faith? ...in private reading and studying? ...at church? ...with your family? ... with others outside your family?