

Jesus First. Jesus ALWAYS: Three Steps to Walking in Victory (Colossians 2:1-15)
Andy Deane • March 8, 2026

The Christian life was never meant to be lived in constant defeat. In Colossians 2, Paul reminds us that Jesus has already won the victory. Watchman Nee once wrote, “We do not fight for victory; we fight from victory. For Jesus Christ has already won the battle.”

THREE STEPS TO WALKING IN VICTORY:

We Contend for Others—Colossians 2:1-5

• **That they would be: encouraged in heart & united in love**

- A discouraged Christian is a weaker Christian (Psalms 42:5).
 - **Martin Lloyd Jones**, “Have you realized that most of your unhappiness in life is due to the fact that you are listening to yourself instead of talking to yourself?”
- A divisive Christian in a harmful Christian (Titus 3:9-11).
 - **The Family Estrangement Trend:** In 2023, the largest study on parent-child estrangement ever done was published and reported: 26% of participants (18 and older) had cut off contact with a parent. — **Reczek, Stacey, & Thomeer in the Journal of Marriage and Family, 2023.**

• **That they would know: *namely, Christ***

- There’s a lot to know in life and in the Bible, but namely Jesus!
- We help others the more we speak of Jesus (1 Corinthians 2:2)
- A.B. Simpson, “God has hidden every precious thing in such a way that it is a reward to the diligent, a prize to the earnest, but a disappointment to the slothful soul. All nature is arrayed against the loungers and the idlers. The nut is hidden in its thorny case; the pearl is buried beneath the ocean waves; the gold is imprisoned in the rocky bosom of the mountains; the gem is found only after you crush the rock which encloses it; the very soil gives its harvest as a reward to the laboring farmer. So truth and God must be earnestly sought.”
- Matthew 13:44

We Continue Growing Ourselves—Colossians 2:6-10

- Grow simply: just as you received Christ...continue
- Grow closely: live your lives in him
- Grow deeply: rooted and built up in him
- Grow confidently: you have been brought to fullness

All of that sounds great, but there's one problem: I can't do it! The devil is powerful. The world is loud. Sin is tempting me. My flesh even sabotages myself.

That's how the author of Colossians felt too: Romans 7:21-25

We Celebrate the Victory We Already Have—Colossians 2:11-15

• **He removed our flesh’s rule: *Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off***

- Spiritual circumcision is a term to describe the cutting away of the sinful nature at salvation.
- Our sinful impulses don’t have to control us any longer.

• **He gave us spiritual life: *buried/raised...dead/alive***

- We’ve got to stop thinking of Christianity as self-improvement.
- Dead people do not improve themselves. They must be resurrected.

• **He: *forgave us all our sins...***

- Paul uses courtroom language to show us the legality of what Christ has done for us. It is finished! Our debt has been paid.
- Psalm 103:12

• **He defeated the devil and the demonic realm**

- **C.S. Lewis**, in ***The Screwtape Letters***, wrote, “There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them.”
- The devil or his demons cannot: possess us, condemn us, or separate us. The only tools left are deceit, temptation, accusation, and intimidation.
- 1 John 4:4

Find these three articles that may help you walk in the victory that we read about in Colossians 2:

- A [12-minute video](#) that offers some practical next steps for those experiencing family estrangement.
- A [devotional on spiritual warfare](#) that is based on Colossians 2:15 and quotes from The Screwtape Letters book that was mentioned in today's sermon.
- A [simple Bible study method](#) that you can use to discover some of the treasures of wisdom and knowledge that are hidden in Christ (Colossians 2:3).