

Sermon Draft

Text: Colossians 2:6–15

Sermon: “Safe in Christ”

The Church, being founded upon Christ, confidently calls upon him in the day of trouble. As he promises to deliver us, we glorify him. This is the foremost form of worship, to believe in the Lord’s forgiving and sustaining power, knowing that his ears are always attentive to our voices. Rooted in Christ, we come before the Lord, giving thanks to his holy name, for we rejoice in his steadfast love and faithfulness (*Psalms*). Though the Lord’s wrath is kindled against the wickedness of the nations, we have the assurance that our rescue from the powers of evil is certain (*Old Testament Reading*). We listen as the good news of salvation is provided to us, knowing that we belong to Christ forever, being filled in him, who is the head (*Epistle*).

As we pray the prayer our Lord Himself taught us (*Gospel*), we are confident in his answering every petition with a perfect response.

It happens often that a witness to a major crime must be protected. Evil powers are bent on doing away with the witness who would incriminate them in court. Thus, "safe houses" are created by law enforcement for protection of the innocent, so that the law may take its course to convict the guilty. It also happens at times, though, that a "safe house" may not turn out to be so safe. The location is compromised, and the witness may be in grave danger. The need always exists to outwit the powers of evil, perhaps to find a new safe house. As we are rooted in Christ we are also safe in Christ.

The world around doesn't feel so safe. But we are because we have been rooted in Christ: at the font. The miracle of Baptism has set us solidly on the foundation of Christ. Paul tells us were ***“buried with him [Christ] in baptism”*** (v 12). As Christ was rooted in the ground, in the tomb, so we are rooted, solidly grounded, with him in our Baptism. By our Baptism, we have been filled in him (v 10), equipped with every spiritual blessing from the heavenly realms (Ephesians 1:3), ready and kept as his for eternal life. That's all here in Baptism.

That's because our Baptism has rooted each of us in the saving work of Christ. Through our Baptism, we share Jesus' walk down the Via Dolorosa, the path Jesus walked to certain death.

On Christ's cross, he crucified us with himself, insuring that our old nature has been slain too. Jesus, True Man and True God He who did this for us, "***in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily***" (v 9).

God no longer looks at us according to our sins, nor require us according to our iniquities (Psalm 103). He now sees us as His own redeemed children. Though our old self may yet deceive us, it can no longer condemn us. Consider the agenda of Christ in our favor: He has buried us, raised us, forgiven us, canceled the legal demands against each of us, disarmed our enemies (vs 12–15). All in Baptism. One victorious action after another insures our deliverance.

Now buried with Christ in Baptism, our sins are entombed forever. Raised with Christ in Baptism, all the legal demands that haunt us have been satisfied.

Therefore, we are in the safest house. We need that house, because danger yet lurks as we walk through this vale of deceit. Because we were dead in our trespasses and the uncircumcision of our flesh (v 13a), our old nature yet entices us toward a reunion with the old neighborhood of evil (v 8).

Because we often fall prey to the devil's powers of temptation, we may feel that a certain root rot is churning within our foundational pilings. We doubt and question ourselves "Maybe I'm not rooted in Christ after all!" And maybe like the Colossians and the "we think we can do it ourselves" heresy we often ask, "Have I satisfied the Law? Have I conquered Satan and his powers? Am I safe, now that I've added to Christ's work my own labor?" Powers exist that would love to recapture us. We can at times lament the feeling that we are still rooted in this dangerous world. Lord, have mercy!

But listen! Our house is safe! "The cosmic powers over this present darkness" (Ephesians 6:12) cannot harm us, since Jesus nailed our salvation shut with **"It is finished"** (John 19:30). **"We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him"** (1 John 5:18). When we pastors declare to our congregations, "I forgive you all your sins," be assured that not one sin can escape this forgiveness, for the one who speaks through him **"is the head of all rule and authority"** (v 10).

Pilings of huge buildings are driven deeply into the bedrock of the earth, so that virtually nothing can shake the building loose from its foundation. Though it is possible to collapse any structure, our safety, rooted in Christ, is guaranteed in the promise of the Lord.

Now, in the face of the danger that yet lurks to capture us, we walk in confidence, knowing that the Lord has rooted us in himself.

We walk in safe freedom, abounding in thanksgiving for such safety. Every step that we take is blessed by the hand of our indwelling Christ. We walk in faith trusting and praying to Jesus constantly, knowing that he hears our petitions for strength against the enemy, such as, "Deliver us from evil" (Mathew 6:13). Cherish every word of Scripture, as you wait for him to call you from this life to that which is promised.

We are in the safest house. Rooted in Christ, his cross, we live forever; we have peace, joy, and pleasure; we have been washed in the blood of Christ and made clean, righteous, and powerful against the devil and death, and nothing shall hurt us (Luke 10:19). You are safe in Christ, now and forever. Amen