

ROOTED IN AN UNROOTED TIME

Remember who you are!

- You are a child of God!
- You are precious and beloved by God.

Child of God, I have a question for you. *Are you rooted in Christ?*

It is out of love the parent asks the child, *“Do you have your seat belt on?”*

It is out of love that I ask you, *Are you rooted in Christ?*



Both seatbelts and rootedness in Christ are so important because bad things happen on the road of life. This is a rough and dangerous stretch of road we're in now. How do you stay rooted in an unrooted time?

Two parts to this question:

- Are you rooted?
- Is it Christ in which you are rooted?

Roots absorb water and essential nutrients. To be rooted in Christ is how your spirit is fed. To be rooted is to be firmly grounded and held by something bigger than your own strength.

For some people, life right now is like an endless stretch of road going nowhere because they are cut off from the things that normally give them life.

- If that's you, even a little bit, you especially need an active, daily practice of prayer and Bible reading – to root you in Christ.

For some people, life now is like a Tilt-a-Whirl carnival ride:

- Going round and round but getting nowhere.
- Little circles, too, within the big circle – with you getting tilted this way and that, whipped back and forth.
- If that's you, even just a little bit, you especially need spiritual grounding to hold your spirit in a strong place through that rough ride.

How's your anxiety?

- Is anxiety keeping you from sleeping?
- Have you been doing some odd things recently to cope with your anxiety?

To be firmly rooted in Christ can be the difference between your enduring or your undoing.

The holding power of roots lies in what they are rooted into, in how strongly those roots have been developed, and in how deeply those roots go.

The rugged country of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and the Canadian Quetico is formed from a geological phenomenon called the Canadian Shield.

- It's a land of very thin soil lying on top of huge sheets of bedrock - nowhere for roots to go!
- The windstorms there can also be fierce.
- Many times I've paddled by trees large and strong but still toppled by a storm. Why did they fall? Because the roots were unable to embed themselves deep enough so that the tree could endure the storm.
- The enduring strength of the tree is not in its size or beauty, but in the depth and strength of its rootedness.
- For these trees, the roots themselves were healthy; the problem was what they tried to root themselves into.
- For a lack of being rooted in the right thing, the tree perishes.

Precious child of God, it is Christ in which you need to be rooted!

- Not this, not that, not even in that other good thing... Christ, Jesus Christ...
- Not in some God by some other name, but in Jesus Christ and no other. Rooted in Christ.

Jeremiah 17 says, *"Blessed are those who trust in the Lord. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream."*

- Jesus is the one who gives the water of life.

Jesus once said, *"The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."*

- To be rooted in Christ is to be a tree planted by the water of eternal life.

In June there was a sad news report of a man in India hospitalized for COVID19. The room was so hot. Wanting to bring him relief, the family plugged in the air conditioner, but unknowingly they unplugged his ventilator to do so... and he died.

- Don't be plugging into some lesser good if it means unplugging from Jesus.
- Whether you rooted in Christ or not is nothing less than a matter of eternal life or death.

The storm rages, but in Christ we're still holding on. Why? Because we are being held on to.

- Who's got you? Jesus has you. You are in the grip of grace, the power of God.

Three things are key to the practice of healthy and enduring rootedness in Christ: God's Word, Shared Worship, & Personal Prayer.

- To be planted near the water of life, we must be rooted in God's Scriptural, Gospel Word.
- To be planted near the water of life, we must be rooted in worship. Yes, we long and work for a return to our sanctuary, but we also give thanks for the ways we can still worship together now, because worshiping together somehow it so essential in this storm.
- To be planted near the water of life, we must be rooted in personal prayer and an active home devotional life. If you don't yet know how to do devotions on your own, we love helping people grow in how to do that.

By Faith you have received Jesus as Savior and Lord; continue now to live your life rooted deeply and securely in Him. Amen.