

## COLOSSIANS 2:1-7

\*In this Chapter, Paul deals with four problems that the Colossian Church was being endangered by:

- ❶ Enticing words (Verses 4-7)
- ❷ Philosophy (Verses 8-13)
- ❸ Legalism (Verses 14-17)
- ❹ Religious Cults (Verses 18-23)

\*Unfortunately, we also deal with these problems today. We will see that Christ is our answer to these conflicts of life.

\*Paul continues his prayer to the believers.

Colossians 2:1 - For I would that ye knew what great conflict I have for you, and *for* them at Laodicea, and *for* as many as have not seen my face in the flesh;

1. Paul saw that there was a great danger brewing in Colosse and neighboring Laodicea. Colosse was a great city, but Laodicea was an even greater city at that time.
  - a. Laodicea was historically known for its financial wealth, particularly for its banking methods. But it also had a great medical school there.
  - b. Colosse was an important trade route until the Roman Road had shifted farther north of these two cities from Ephesus. This caused the city of Colosse to shrink into a smaller town and finally it became a city in ruins.
2. Paul's conflict in this verse is his pastor's heart and concern for the believers there. That word "conflict" means to "agonize" and Paul agonized over the fact that some believers had not begun to mature in the faith.
3. It is clear that Paul had not been to these two cities because we see in the last part of this verse "and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh". Paul was concerned because everywhere he went, these false teachers followed and caused divisions contrary to his grace doctrine.

Romans 16:17-19 - Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. Rom. 16:18 For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple. Rom. 16:19 For your obedience is come abroad unto all *men*. I am glad therefore on your behalf: but yet I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil.

4. Paul wanted these believers to understand what he had gone through in Galatia to get the gospel of grace, the mystery message, seared into their minds.

Galatians 1:6-7 - I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Gal. 1:7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.

Colossians 2:2 - That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ;

1. Here we see the exact content of Paul's prayer, "That their hearts might be comforted." Paul is praying that their hearts, their humanity and their whole inner part might be comforted.
2. Paul desired for their hearts to be encouraged by his testimony and the mystery truth. We have this comfort also. We cannot allow Satan to attack us with our trials in life and rob us of this joy we have in Christ.
3. "being knit together in love" is that bond that unites believers in love - having love for one another. Being a member of the Body of Christ, as a church, we are "fitly joined together".
4. In the last part of this verse, we see the doctrine and motivation of these truths. This means the believer should be moving along in spiritual maturity and understanding the mystery truths. This is our responsibility. Look at Ephesians 3:9 - *And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:*
5. "the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ". The mystery of God centers in Christ being the Head of the Body Church. It involves our relationship to Him, according to the Dispensation of Grace Program for today.

I Corinthians 12:12 - For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also *is* Christ.

Colossians 2:3 - In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

1. Paul tells them that all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in Christ. There is no need for believers to go beyond what the truths and knowledge show written in the Scriptures. All we need is in Christ.
2. In Christ, we can find the treasures and precious truths in this dispensation. Romans 11:33 confirms the depths of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God.
3. The Gnostics boasted about their knowledge far surpassing anything found within the pages of divine revelations - their wisdom being equal to, or in addition to, what is found in Christ.

I Corinthians 2:6-7 - Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought: 1Cor. 2:7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, *even* the hidden *wisdom*, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:

4. We need to understand that "knowledge" is the understanding of the truth. Whereas, "wisdom" is the ability to apply what truth has been learned. As believers, we need to have our hearts and our conduct in accordance with the gospel revealed by Jesus Christ to Paul - the grace gospel.

\*Paul now starts dealing with the four problems given in this Chapter 2. Paul begins with the problem of "enticing words" in verses 4 through 7.

Colossians 2:4 - And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words.

1. Paul was describing these false teachers as being smooth talkers that used "enticing words". Paul constantly warns believers about wolves in sheep's clothing, false speakers with deceit and being counterfeiters.

II Corinthians 11:13 - For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.

2. "Beguile" means to victimize someone and this was the danger happening in Colosse and Laodicea. This evidently killed the church in Colosse and made the church in Laodicea the weakest of the seven churches in Asia Minor. The church of Laodicea became "lukewarm".

Revelation 3:15-16 - I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.  
Rev. 3:16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

3. Paul warns these believers to steer away from these false teachers that use deception, smooth words, and humanistic logic to reason and argue their message.
4. This is why Paul has pointed out everything the believer needs to stand on and not to be deceived. All we need is to be in Christ alone, according to the Mystery.

\*Knowledge of the Mystery - the Dispensation of Grace is the only sound doctrine in this present Body Church Age for the believer to stand on for salvation.

Acts 17:11 - These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

Colossians 2:5 - For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the stedfastness of your faith in Christ.

1. This verse shows how aware Apostle Paul was of the problems facing the Colossian believers. Even though Paul was not physically present there at the church, he rejoiced in the spirit for them.
2. Paul uses a military term, "order", which means to stand shoulder to shoulder. This is what believers ought to be doing. Unfortunately many churches have disorder that creates chaos.
3. Paul uses another term "stedfastness". This means to stand firm or to be immovable. Paul uses this same thought in I Corinthians 15:58 - *Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.*
4. Paul wanted them to continue in the faith they had learned and not be moved away by the deceiving wrong doctrine of these false teachers.

Colossians 2:6 - As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, *so* walk ye in him:

1. Paul reminds them of the Christian life. Now that you have received Christ into your life, walk with Him, and walk in the Spirit by faith.

II Corinthians 5:7 - (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

2. The way you get around in this life is to walk. We are to walk in Christ.

Galatians 5:16 - *This* I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

Colossians 2:7 - Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

1. Paul mentions four very important things involving Christian maturity that are a direct result of their walking by faith.
  - a. "Rooted" - This carries the idea of the believer who has put deep roots into the soil of Jesus Christ. We find our roots in Him, by drawing all our nourishment from Christ.
  - b. "Built up in Him" - Paul illustrates the figure of a building where Jesus Christ is the foundation. Paul says he has already laid the foundation (the mystery truth), so now it is our responsibility to grow and mature in the faith.

I Corinthians 3:10-11 - According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. 1Cor. 3:11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

- c. "Stablished" - This means to be firm and stable. It is to be confirmed in the faith according to the Dispensation of Grace, the Mystery, that Paul taught Epaphras. These precious truths are to be confirmed in their hearts.
  - d. "The faith" - Faith is the means by which you and I lay hold of Christ. This is the body of doctrine that is for the church today. We are to hold fast and be firm in the Pauline truths.

II Timothy 1:13-14 - Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. 2Tim. 1:14 That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us.

2. Paul concludes this description with the words "abounding therein with thanksgiving". Paul wants their hearts to be fascinated by the marvelous truths of Paul's grace gospel. They, in turn, will overflow with praise and thankfulness to the Lord Jesus Christ.
3. Paul writes this verse in response to all God has done and is doing in our lives by rooting us, building us, and establishing us in the faith. Our response should be one of gratitude that has set us free.

#### In Closing:

\*Colossians 2 - verse 8 has so many biblical truths for the Christian today to use in their lives. I will start with this next week with more time.

\*This verse gives the second problem that Paul deals with to the Colossian believer in Chapter 2.

\*Paul will give us four satanic substitutes to be aware of that can lead us away from what God has purposed in us.

\*Paul is ready to deal directly with the specific errors that had threatened the believers at Colosse and Laodicea.