

Series "Jesus Is First"
"Love For God's People"
Colossians 2:1-7
Part-6

Paul had a Shepherd's heart in this passage. **Colossians 2:1**

Paul was always in conflict. Sometimes beyond human strength:
2 Corinthians 1:8 – "a beast of burden which had fallen and could not get up because the load was too heavy."

Paul was ever caring about his converts: 2 Corinthians 11:29.

Paul wrestled in prayer: Colossians 4:2-4.

The theme is **"Jesus Is First"** or **"The Preeminence of Jesus Christ."**

Colossians 2 DANGER – CHRIST'S PREEMINENCE DEFENDED.

- 1. Verse 1 – Great Struggle**
- 2. Verses 2-3 – Spiritual Growth**
- 3. Verses 4-5 – Believer Beware**
- 4. Verses 6-7 – Walking In Him**

1. Verse 1 – Great Struggle:

Colossians 2:1 – "For" – This is a continuation of what Paul was saying in Colossians 1. Paul spoke of the ministry and his readiness to share and willingness to suffer for the gospel, Colossians 1:28-29.

"struggle" – (conflict) our word "agony." It was used of the Greek Olympic games, where they wrestled, engaged in footraces, and fought to win.

Beware Of Smooth Talkers! Colossians 2:4

Spoil You! Colossians 2:8

Judging You! Colossians 2:16

Take Advantage Of You! Colossians 2:18

1 Thessalonians 2:8

There were 3 groups that Paul was concerned about:

- 1. The Believers In Colossae** – “your behalf,” – This was the believers in Colossae. These he described in Col. 1:2 as “saints and faithful brethren.”
- 2. The Believers In Laodicea** – “and for those who are at Laodicea,” – This was located 10 miles west of Colossae, Revelation 3: 14-22; Colossians 4:16.
- 3. The Other Believers In The Area** – “and for all those who have not personally seen my face,”

Paul was praying for all these believers: he was in prison and was concerned for these believers, Colossians 4:2.

Colossians 4:12; Ephesians 6:18

Great Struggle: 2 Corinthians 11:28

2. Verses 2-3 – Spiritual Growth:

Colossians 2:2 – “that” – speaks of the purpose of Paul’s concern.

“their hearts” – means much more than feelings or emotions; metaphor for the inner man, which involves the mind. A man thinks with his heart, Proverbs 23:7.

“may be encouraged,” – Literally speaks of “to call beside.” To encourage so that the person can cope with any situation.

“having been knit together in love,” – endearment. False doctrine is always divisive!

“knit together” – it is a medical metaphor; means “to join or unite together.” It is to be placed in the joint.

“understanding” – “ability to bring together various data to put it together.”

2 Timothy 1:12

“resulting in a true knowledge of God's mystery, that is,” – The mystery – Colossians 1:26 – Gentiles included, Jesus, the hope of glory, was in them.

Colossians 2:3 – “in whom” – notice the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are in a person.

"wisdom" – "the ability to understand truth and the ability to apply the truths in specific situations."

"and knowledge." – The word translated "understanding" literally means "to place together."

2 Peter 3:18

"hidden" – The real meaning of life is hidden from sinful man. Realized in Jesus, Matthew 11:25.

3. Verses 4-5 – Believer Beware:

Colossians 2:4

"I say this in order that no one" – You cannot take every man's opinion. Man is fallible.

Deceitful Teachers: "may delude you" – (beguile) "to reason or speak beside," to deceive by false reckoning."

"with persuasive argument." – "enticing words," false reasonings. It speaks of a salesman trying to sell a product to a person that is not interested.

1 Corinthians 2:4

Colossians 2:5

"For even though I am absent in body, nevertheless I am with you in spirit," – Human spirit of support, sympathetic involvement.

"rejoicing to see your good discipline" – (good order individually); Military term, not stepping out of rank as soldiers that march. In Jewish mindset, it spoke of the priest that fully performed their duties.

"and the stability of your faith in Christ." – (corporate strength); speaks of a sure foundation. The word "stability" – we get our English word stereo, "solid sound."

"It speaks of in a military sense a solid front in a battle. A group that is united for the cause. Had not broken rank! Need to walk in Christ"

Colossians 1:23

4. Verses 6-7 – Walking In Him:

Colossians 2:6

“Therefore” – The believers had good discipline, stability of their faith; these were genuine believers.

“as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord,” – He is speaking to Christians.

“Christ” – anointed Messiah, Jesus Joshua, “The Lord is salvation,” the Lord – 92X is master, one that is in complete control.

“so walk in Him,” – “Keep walking in Him,” 1 John 2:6.

Colossians 2:7

Paul gives 4 pictures of growth and stability:

1. **A Tree** – “having been firmly rooted” – (Conversion) We are to let our roots go down.

Ephesians 4:11-15

2. **A Building** – “and now being built up in Him and established in your faith,” – built up – a building. Building in layers, edify or edifice, 1 Corinthians 3:9.

3. **A School** – “just as you were instructed,” – Taught; Students of The Word.

4. **A River** – “and overflowing with gratitude.” – The word “overflowing” speaks of a river that is overflowing its banks.

Application:

1. If Our Roots Are Deep In Jesus, We Will Not Want Another Soil.
2. If Jesus Is Our Sure Foundation Of Our Life, There Is No Reason To Move.
3. If We Are Studying And Growing In The Word, We Will Not Be Drawn In By False Doctrine.
4. If The Heart Is Overflowing In Thanksgiving, We Will Not Consider Turning Away From The Fullness That We Have In Christ.

A Growing, Grounded, Grateful Believer Cannot Be Led Astray!