

COLOSSIANS 2: ALL THE TREASURES...IN HIM

We delved into Paul's prayer for the Colossians in chapter one of his letter to them. Chapter two begins with another prayer...Paul calls this 'prayer' a struggle (v11) He is defining his intercession on their behalf.

For I want you to know how great a struggle I have on your behalf and for those who are at Laodicea, and for all those who have not personally seen my face, ² that their hearts may be encouraged, having been knit together in love, and attaining to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, resulting in a true knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ Himself, ³ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. ⁴ I say this so that no one will delude you with persuasive argument. ⁵ For even though I am absent in body, nevertheless I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good discipline and the stability of your faith in Christ. Colossians 2:1-3 NASB

- ***Paul is praying for people he is invested in and committed to but does not know 'in person'. He describes his prayer as an 'inward struggle' that he is engaged in for them. (This is intercession)***
 - ***His concern for them is astute and deep:***
 - ***He is longing for their hearts to be braced, comforted, cheered and encouraged as they are knit together in love. (Koinonea to the max!)***
 - ***He wants them to have all the spiritual wealth and blessing of truly understanding and believing in Jesus.***
 - ***The word 'encourage' means more than to be comforted. It means to be strengthened and fortified as well.***
 - ***He is praying that their hearts be encouraged and fortified and that they intimately, progressively, and thoroughly know Jesus as God has revealed Him. He is praying for an Assurant understanding, a certainty of the truth.***
- ***There are so many un-truths, half-truths, and fabrications of truth moving about the world that the Colossians lived in (us too!)***
- ***They needed a full assurance of understanding, an unshakable confidence in the things of God (so do we!)***

- **Paul (v3) sets the focus when he says...it's all in Him, in Jesus...the treasures of divine wisdom, insight, knowledge, and enlightenment are in Him...true spiritual reality is found in Him...**
 - **His prayer is essentially this...now that you have been won to Jesus, live as one with Him.**

⁴There are enemies who are out to mis-lead, mis-inform, delude, deceive, and beguile people (it was true then even as it is true now.) I say this so that no one will delude you with persuasive argument. ⁵For even though I am absent in body, nevertheless I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good discipline and the stability of your faith in Christ. ⁶Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, ⁷having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude. Colossians 2:4-7 NASB

- **Paul is so pleased that the believers in there were proving to be stable and established in their faith...(v5)**
- **As we have received Him (by grace through faith) so walk in Him (by grace through faith). (v6)**
- **We have been firmly rooted in Him...it happened, we are saved, we are born again, and we are now being built up in Him. (v7)**
- **The world around us may be afloat, or drifting, or racing down a mountain, but you have been firmly planted in Jesus. Your life is rooted in Him, your hope is grounded in His goodness. This is your strength, your identity, your security, rooted in Jesus.**
- **You have been rooted and now you are being built up in Him... 'becoming increasingly more confirmed and established in the faith.' (v7 AMPC)**
- **Even if you experience a wreck or mess up and tear something down that He had been building up, His grace is relentlessly operating to be building you up.**
- **No thing will lead Him to forsake His work in you...so the only response we can have is to be (v7) overflowing with gratitude.**

⁸See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ. ⁹For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells

in bodily form,¹⁰ and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority;¹¹ and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ;¹² having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.¹³ When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions,¹⁴ having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.¹⁵ When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him. Colossians 2:8-15 NASB

⁸ See to it that no one carries you off as spoil or makes you yourselves captive by his so-called philosophy and intellectualism and vain deceit (idle fancies and plain nonsense), following human tradition (men's ideas of the material rather than the spiritual world), just crude notions following the rudimentary and elemental teachings of the universe and disregarding [the teachings of] Christ (the Messiah). Colossians 2:8 AMPC

- ***Paul warns the church, don't be beguiled by human philosophy or empty deception. (v8)***
- ***Don't be 'carried off or taken captive'...don't leave the truth to become a slave to error...(v8)***
- ***The word for 'philosophy' used here means 'a love of wisdom'...the human pursuit of wisdom apart from God's revelation...this is the only time this word is in the Bible..."I like to say, 'this deception is full of emptiness.'" (v8)***
- ***In Him all the fullness of deity dwells in bodily form...(v9) (Full fullness – not full of emptiness)***
 - ***...giving complete expression of the divine nature...AMPC***
 - ***..."All the fullness of Deity continues to live embodied..." Williams***
- ***In Him, we have been made complete...the Spirit of God in you bringing you to full spiritual stature. (v10)***
- ***He is the head of all rule and authority of every angelic principality and power. (v10 AMPC)***

¹¹ And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. Ephesians 4:11-13 NASB

¹¹ In Him also you were circumcised with a circumcision not made with hands, but in a [spiritual] circumcision [performed by] Christ by stripping off the body of the flesh (the whole corrupt, carnal nature with its passions and lusts). ¹² [Thus you were circumcised when] you were buried with Him in [your] baptism, in which you were also raised with Him [to a new life] through [your] faith in the working of God [as displayed] when He raised Him up from the dead. Colossians 2:11-12 AMPC

²⁸ For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. ²⁹ But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God. Romans 2:28-29 NASB

- ***He deals with our sinful nature (v11) and even when we were dead in our sins and our closed hearts, He made us alive together with Him. (v13)***
 - ***He canceled the certificate of debt that was hostile to us and nailed it to the cross...(v14)***

¹⁵ [God] disarmed the principalities and powers that were ranged against us and made a bold display and public example of them, in triumphing over them in Him and in it [the cross]. Colossians 2:15 AMPC