

## **COLOSSIANS 2:1-7**

### **Buried Treasure - In You!**

Intro: A part of serving the Lord in ANY capacity, any role, is criticism. No matter if you are a brand-new usher, or a seasoned Pastor like the Apostle - Serving the Lord makes you a target of critics.

The Apostle was dealing with the critics in Colossae. They were questioning Paul's past, Paul's present condition of being a criminal (so called) and of his having never been in Colossae.

It was a conflict for the Apostle that he begins talking about right away as we begin our study of chapter two.

But he also immediately gives the Colossians the key to getting it right when it comes to dealing with the false teachers - He tells them in V2 to stay knit together in love!

He then tells them in V3 that there is treasure buried in their hearts in the person of the Holy Spirit who shares with them a complete knowledge of God.

The false teachers were peddling secret knowledge - Paul told them the treasure of the knowledge of God was already in them, for free!

He warns them in V4 that liars were among them using persuasive words to distract them from the truth that already resided within them.

Let's take a few moments to learn a lesson from the expressive words the Apostle uses to teach this struggling young church.

V1-3 - Encouraged - Endeared - Enriched - Enlightened

**Col 2:1-3** - For I want you to know what a great conflict I have for you and those in Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh, **2** that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ, **3** in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

#### **A. V1 - The agonizing Apostle.**

- a. **NLT** - "I want you to know how much I have agonized for you and for the church at Laodicea, and for many other believers who have never met me personally."
- b. Why was the Apostle agonizing for the believers in Colossae and its surrounding cities?
- c. Because they were getting out of the scripture and getting into sacrilege.
- d. CCSV, the best thing I can encourage you to do is know your bible. Become a life-long student of scripture and then we will never be talking about "what happened to so and so... he just went off the deep end."

## B. V2 - In verse two Paul gives four signs of spiritual maturity:

- a. **1** - Encouragement - "**That their hearts may be encouraged**"
  - i. Believers - STAY in the word and you will a believer who recovers from tragedy being encouraged.
  - ii. Listen, most of the word encourage is just plain courage.
  - iii. Brave people are far and away happier than cowards! It's just the way it is!
  - iv. Paul is teaching the Colossians to grow up and be brave!
- b. **2** - Endearment - "**Being knit together in love.**"
  - i. The mature Christian loves the brethren and is a peacemaker rather than a troublemaker.
  - ii. If you are a person who finds themselves constantly in conflict, constantly seeing problems in others, and who feels satisfaction in finding fault... GROW UP! You are being used by Satan to tear down the Body of Christ!
  - iii. Critical people are rarely "knit together in love" and tend to feel distant, separated or disconnected.
  - iv. Want to feel more knitted together with others? STOP CRITICIZING THEM! Begin loving them, appreciating them, seeing the best in them, PRAYING for them in thanksgiving.
  - v. In short - Love them.
- c. **3** - Enrichment - "**attaining to all riches...**"
  - i. CEV - "wonderfully blessed."
  - ii. "Riches" = Abundance.
  - iii. Believers, this says you have abundant riches - Is that what you feel, what you profess? (I hope so!)
  - iv. Where are my riches? - In Colossians 1:27 - To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.
- d. **4** - Finally, the fourth sign of Christian maturity is Enlightenment - "**full assurance of understanding**, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ"

- i. The mature child of God is one who lives in full assurance that he or she is being cared for by God.

### C. V3 - You've got it!

- a. The false teachers were tempting the Colossian Church to move Jesus to the back burner and concentrate on religious rituals.
- b. The false teachers promised a treasure trove of knowledge, apart from knowing Christ.
  - i. Their religion was more important than reverence of Christ.
  - ii. Their diet was more important than devotion.
  - iii. Their list of do's & don't was more important than loving the Lord.
- c. The false teacher taught "look to us" - The Apostle taught: look inside - The Lord is IN you, please Him!

The false teachers in Colossae (like all false teachers) wanted the Colossians to give; Give them money, give them honor, and to give them power to control their lives.

In contrast - Paul wanted the Colossian Christians to grow!

In verses 4-7 - Listen to the illustrative words Paul uses to describe his desire for the Colossian Church:

4 Now this I say lest anyone should deceive you with persuasive words.  
 5 For though I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ. 6 As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, 7 rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.

#### 1. V4 - He warns of "Persuasive words."

- a. Persuasive means to be willing to say anything to pacify or get your way.
- b. When it takes being willing to flatter the listener in order to be able to close the deal - You are being lied to!
- c. Have you noticed that the Bible does NOT do this? It tells the truth!

#### 2. V5 - **Good order** - steadfastness

- a. "Order" is a word that describes ranking, like in an army.
  - i. What do you call an army where every soldier has the same rank?  
A mob.
  - ii. How do you quell a mob? Split it in two groups - normally that is all it takes to confuse them.

- iii. The false teachers were removing Jesus from the head of the Church and Paul wasn't standing still for it!
  - b. **"Steadfastness"** V5 - Is also a military term describing the way an army marches into battle
    - i. In short, any army is stronger in numbers.
    - ii. Beloved, we need each other - SO, stay steadfast in getting together!
    - iii. Don't make the mistake of teaching your children that Soccer, leisure, work, school, relaxation or television shows are more important than Jesus. They never seem to forget those lessons.
- 3. V6 - **"Walk"**
  - a. Very often the Christian life is compared to a pilgrimage, and this is the case here.
  - b. The Apostle reminds the Colossians of this by encouraging them to keep on walking, and to keep walking in Christ
    - i. Depending on Christ
    - ii. Abiding in Christ
    - iii. Relying ONLY on Christ!
- 4. V7 - **"Rooted"**
  - a. Rooted is an agricultural term.
  - b. It speaks of permanence.
  - c. In describing the wise man who listens to Godly counsel the Psalmist said in Psalm 1:3 - He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water.
  - d. Church, get grounded in God's word and stay put!
- 5. V7b - **"Built up."**
  - a. Built up is an architectural term.
  - b. Literally it means "built there upon..."
    - i. Built there upon what?
    - ii. Clever ideas? Charismatic leaders? No... Upon Christ!
  - c. Jesus Himself used this analogy in Matthew 7
    - i. **Matthew 7:24-27** - **"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: 25 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. 26 "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: 27 and the rain**

**descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."**

- ii. Couples - build your marriage on Christ.
  - iii. Parents - Raise your Children in Christ!
  - iv. Singles - Fill your heart and time with Christ!
  - v. Young people - Plan your future with Christ.
  - vi. Seniors - Pray for the rest of us to continue being built up in Christ.
6. V7c - **"Established and taught"**
- a. These are educational terms.
  - b. Teaching establishes someone in the area in which they are taught.
  - c. Years ago, in New York a soldier returning from Afghanistan witnessed a bus collide with an 18-wheeler and burst into flames.
    - i. While everyone else stood by watching the bus burn, the soldier crawled into it and dragged out three victims saving their lives.
    - ii. He then got back into his truck and kept on driving home.
    - iii. He had been established and taught to react under fire.
  - d. **Wiersbe** says "Satan has a hard time deceiving believers who have been established and taught in the word."
7. **"Abounding"** = This word describes the flow of a river overflowing its banks.
- a. As we witnessed via news accounts of SO many people losing their homes to flooding this year, we heard over and over about "water everywhere!"
  - b. Christians, we will see "Grace everywhere" if we are looking for it.
  - c. We will be thankful, full of thanksgiving, overflowing with it if we are mature in the Lord.

Thanksgiving everywhere!

THAT is what the Apostle agonized for in the Colossian Church.

Let's be overflowing with maturity and thanksgiving as well!