

Colossians

Lesson 3 - Colossians 2:1-10

Chapter 1 ended with Paul telling the Colossians that his ministry, his desire, was to teach, warn and preach, *“that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.”* Paul continues in this chapter to preach Jesus, to warn against deception and to teach how to walk *in Christ*.

Begin your study with prayer, thanking the Lord for His Word and asking for understanding of it and wisdom in applying it to your life.

Memory Verse – This week’s memory verse:

*“As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,
rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught,
abounding in it with thanksgiving.”
Colossians 2:6-7 NKJV*

Read Colossians 2:1- 3.

1. In Colossians 2:1, Paul says he has a great *conflict*, a word which Strong’s concordance also defines as an effort or anxiety, even agony. This *conflict* shows the intensity of caring and concern. Who does Paul say this conflict is for?

- a. What words can you find in Colossians 1:29 that also reflect Paul’s effort for them?
- b. How would these words reflect Paul’s efforts in ministry and in prayer?
- c. Have you had times like this in your own prayer life? Share some examples below.

2. As we read on, we will see both Paul’s desire for them and his concerns. We see what Paul’s desire for them in prayer is from Colossians 2:2. List the three main things mentioned in this verse.

- a.
- b.
- c.

3. Since these things are still important for us today, we will look more closely at each one. First, in Colossians 2:2, consider his words “*that their hearts may be encouraged.*”

a. Write a definition for *encourage*.

b. Looking back to the first part of Colossians 1:23, what had Paul already *encouraged* them to continue in?

c. Looking ahead to Colossians 2:6-7, what does Paul *encourage* them to do?

d. We all need encouragement and it is good for us to have people in our lives who speak encouraging words to us, but we also know we can always find encouragement in the Word of God. Sometimes we need to be the encourager for others, pointing them to the Lord. Share a scripture below that you have been encouraged by or have used to encourage someone.

4. Second, what does it mean to you when you read Paul’s words in Colossians 2:2, “... *knit together in love*”?

a. Why is this kind of love important to true encouragement?

b. What do you see in the following scriptures about this kind of love?

1. John 13:34-35

2. Ephesians 4:16

3. Colossians 3:14

5. Third, in Colossians 2:2, look closer at the last part of the verse, “...*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,*”

a. As Paul wrote in this verse, what is this *assurance*?

Note: The mystery Paul is speaking of here is the mystery we read of in Colossians 1:27, “*Christ in you, the hope of glory.*”

- b. What is the difference between understanding and knowledge, and why do we need both?

6. Before we move on, take time to read Colossians 2:2-3 again slowly, considering all we have just seen in these verses. Every one of Paul's desires for them, and God's desires for us, are found in one place. In whom are all of these found?

Paul's teaching here about wisdom and knowledge are very applicable to the Colossians church since one main concern he had was the false teaching of the Gnostics. Since the Gnostics thought they had superior knowledge, it was essential for the church to know that all wisdom and knowledge is to be found in the all-knowing God. We still need this same truth to be solid in our lives today so that we are not deceived by false teachings of our time.

Read Colossians 2:4-5.

1. Having clearly pointed them to Christ now, in Colossians 2:4, we see one of Paul's concerns that is behind his conflict for them. What warning do you see in this verse?

- a. Define the word *deceive*.

- b. What are *persuasive words*?

2. Consider the KJV of Colossians 2:4: *And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words*. How does this add to your understanding of what the false teachers were doing?

3. What do you find in Ephesians 4:14 that is a similar warning?

4. What characteristics of the Colossians did Paul say he rejoiced in from Colossians 2:5?

5. Why are these characteristics important in any Christian?

Read Colossians 2:6-10.

1. Colossians 2:6 begins, “*As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord...*” There are three aspects to this phrase that we should consider.

- a. According to Ephesians 2:8, how did you receive Christ?
- b. How you received Christ also can refer to the truths you were taught about Christ. Write the important truths about Christ that you believed to receive Him below.
- c. Notice Paul said specifically Christ Jesus *the Lord...* What does it mean to receive the lordship of Christ Jesus?

2. ...*so walk in Him...*

- a. What does it mean here to *walk*?
- b. Consider all the aspects of question #1 above. How would you describe walking *in Him*?

3. It is important that we recognize that we can only walk this walk if we are *in Him*, relying on Him by faith. And Paul continues describing how to do this in Colossians 2:7, “...*rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught...*”

a. *Rooted in Him* gives us the picture of a tree. What do Psalm 1:3 and Jeremiah 17:8 add to the picture of being *rooted in Him*?

b. *Built* and *established* makes us think of a building. How do the following scriptures add to the meaning of this for you?

1. Psalm 127:1

2. Matthew 7:27

3. 1 Cor 3:11

c. Considering the scriptures above, what are some practical things we are to be doing toward being *built up and established*? Consider also Jude 1:20-21.

4. After the *encouraging* words and the *teaching* of the foundation of Christ in our walk, Paul now moves on to a *warning* about those who would try to move you away from the truth in Christ. In Colossians 2:8 he lists four things that false teachers would use to *cheat you* out of the riches you have in Christ. Consider each one below.

a. philosophy –

1. Write a definition below.

2. What is the source of the wisdom in *philosophy*?

b. empty deceit – What do you think this is?

c. tradition of men –

1. Write an example of a *tradition of man* below.

2. What is the danger in this type of tradition?

d. according to the basic principles of the world... Again, what is the source of these principles?

e. From NKJV, complete the last phrase of Colossians 2:8 below, as it clearly tells us what is wrong with all of these.

...and not _____.

5. All of the things Paul warned against above have their source in the world. What do you find in James 3:14-16 that adds to the understanding of these warnings about worldly wisdom?

6. Consider the result of trusting in worldly wisdom from Romans 1:22-25, and share your thoughts below.

7. But we do not have to be cheated by worldly wisdom and philosophy. Instead, what do the following scriptures have to say?

a. James 1:5

b. James 3:17

8. In Colossians 2:9 Paul clearly gives an essential truth on which we can stand when faced with false teaching.

a. Write verse 9 below.

b. Why is this truth attacked or denied so often in this world?

9. Although Paul has much more to say about all we have *in Him*, we will end this lesson with the amazing truth of Colossians 2:10: “...*and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.*”

a. What does it mean to you that you are complete in Him?

b. Why is it so important to know that Jesus is ... *the head of all principality and power*?

In closing...

1. How can you apply the truths in this lesson, when you are faced with the false teachings and vain philosophies that are prevalent today?

2. The answer to every false teaching is the truth, the Word of God. What is the only way to know and walk in that truth?

Memory Verse

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