

"Paul's Burden for the Colossians"

Part 2

Colossians 2:1-5

Introduction: In our study of Colossians last week, we looked at the first three verses of chapter 2.

Notice Colossians 2:1-3

In these verses Paul expresses his desire for the Colossian believers. He desired that they remain knit together in love so as not to be divided by the heresy that had come into the church. He desired that they remain steadfast in the assurance of their salvation and understand who they were in Jesus Christ. He desired that their knowledge of God would increase so they would possess the great treasures of wisdom and knowledge that are found in our Lord. Paul knew that the deeper these people were grounded in the Word of God the better they would stand against the heresy that was being brought in.

Application:

Last week we looked at how knowledge and wisdom have to be pursued if we are going to possess them in our lives.

Proverbs 3:3-8

³ *Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding;*

⁴ *If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures;*

⁵ *Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.*

⁶ *For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.*

⁷ *He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly.*

⁸ *He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints.*

I. The Result

Notice Colossians 2:4

This is the result of being grounded deep in our knowledge of Jesus Christ and who we are in Him.

Notice the words of Calvin.

"The knowledge of Christ is of itself amply sufficient. And, unquestionably, this is the key that can close the door against all base errors... those are out of danger who remain in Christ, but that those who are not satisfied with Christ are exposed to all fallacies and deceptions... it is a passage, certainly, that ought to be singularly esteemed. For as he who has taught men to know nothing except Christ, has provided against all wicked doctrines."

Notice Colossians 2:5

This verse would have been great encouragement for these believers. In this verse we can see a little more of what the church was like. The words "order" and "stedfastness" open a window to see into this body of believers. Both of these words are military terms.

According to Vine the word "order" speaks of their freedom from disquiet, discord and disruption, their readiness to be attentive to those whom God has set over them as spiritual overseers and to be attentive to one another.

This tells us these people were disciplined in their thoughts. They were able to cast down the thoughts that would cause discord or division. They were disciplined as well-trained soldiers who were focused upon the battle and were not distracted by the psychological warfare of the enemy. We sometimes forget that our enemy will bring not only physical attacks but also, he will attack the mind.

2 Corinthians 10:5-6

⁵ Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

⁶ And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

Notice Colossians 2:5 again.

The word "stedfastness" means a solid bulwark, an immovable infantry. It describes an army set out in an unbreakable group, solidly immovable against the shock of the enemy's charge. Within the Church there should be disciplined believers with strong steadiness, like the order and steadiness of a trained and disciplined body of military troops. The question is how did these believers become this strong? It was through a steady diet of the Word of God. Someone has said that a steady diet of solid Food will lead to a solid Faith.

Psalm 18:1-2

I will love thee, O LORD, my strength.

² The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.

In Psalm 3 we see the result of a man deep in his relationship with the Lord in the midst of the storms of life. It was written by David when his world was falling apart.

Psalm 3:1-8

Lord, how are they increased that trouble me! many are they that rise up against me.

² Many there be which say of my soul, There is no help for him in God. Selah.

³ But thou, O LORD, art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head.

⁴ I cried unto the LORD with my voice, and he heard me out of his holy hill. Selah.

⁵ I laid me down and slept; I awaked; for the LORD sustained me.

⁶ I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people, that have set themselves against me round about.

⁷ Arise, O LORD; save me, O my God: for thou hast smitten all mine enemies upon the cheek bone; thou hast broken the teeth of the ungodly.

⁸ Salvation belongeth unto the LORD: thy blessing is upon thy people. Selah.

II. The Walk

Notice Colossians 2:6

How had they received Jesus Christ? By faith. Paul then calls them to live by faith now. They were saved by faith and they were to live by faith. In other words, they were to trust in the Lord to meet all their needs and to guide and direct them and to bless them with all spiritual blessings. What did this have to do with the heresy that had come into the church? The heretics were teaching that Jesus Christ was not enough, but that there were other things they needed to follow. Either philosophy, ceremonies, angel worship and so on. Paul was very clear in this verse that Jesus Christ could give them the spiritually abundant life if they were to just simply trust in Him.

Hebrews 10:35-39

³⁵ *Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.*

³⁶ *For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.*

³⁷ *For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.*

³⁸ Now **the just shall live by faith**: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

³⁹ *But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.*

Notice Colossians 2:7

This verse has so much spiritual Truth for us. Notice that we are rooted in Jesus. He is the soil in which we are planted and it is in Him that our roots are to go down deep.

Jeremiah 17:7-8

⁷ *Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is.*

⁸ *For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.*

The word "ROOTED" is in the perfect tense. It could read, "Having been rooted." This means that it is an act that took place once and for all with permanent results.

Notice Colossians 2:7 again.

The words "built up" are in the present tense which indicates a constant process from day to day. Therefore, we can look at this verse in say that Jesus Christ is the foundation and we are the building that is constantly being built up as we grow in Him. Notice the words of Barclay on these two words.

"There are two pictures here. The word used for rooted is the word which would be used of a tree with its roots deep in the soil. The word used for built is the word which would be used of a house erected on a firm foundation. Just as the great tree is deep-rooted in the soil and draws its nourishment from it, so the Christian is rooted in Christ, the source of his life and strength. Just as the house stands fast because it is built on strong foundations, so the Christian life is resistant to any storm because it is founded on the

strength of Christ. Christ is alike the source of the Christian's life and the foundation of his stability."

Notice Colossians 2:7 again.

Paul also exhorted them to be "stablished" in the faith. This follows the idea that after we are planted then we grow and the more we grow the more secure we become in the faith. The word "stablished" is also in the present tense which means that this is an ongoing process. We are never as secure in the faith as what we could be. There is always more of our Lord to know and there is always more growth to be experienced.

Romans 16:25

*²⁵ Now to him that is of power to **stablish** you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,*

²⁶ But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:

III. The Warning

Notice Colossians 2:8

The word "spoil" here tells us much about the danger of not being established in the faith. To spoil does not refer to something like food that has been spoiled. The word "spoil" here refers to stealing something from us. Just like an enemy would come to war and spoil a city by carrying away valuables. So what Paul is saying here is that the enemy, as he works through false teachers, he longs to steal away the spiritual blessings that we have in Jesus Christ. Let me show you a picture from David's life.

1 Samuel 30:1-6

And it came to pass, when David and his men were come to Ziklag on the third day, that the Amalekites had invaded the south, and Ziklag, and smitten Ziklag, and burned it with fire;

² And had taken the women captives, that were therein: they slew not any, either great or small, but carried them away, and went on their way.

³ So David and his men came to the city, and, behold, it was burned with fire; and their wives, and their sons, and their daughters, were taken captives.

⁴ Then David and the people that were with him lifted up their voice and wept, until they had no more power to weep.

⁵ And David's two wives were taken captives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the wife of Nabal the Carmelite.

⁶ And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.

What does the enemy steal from believers when they get caught up in false teaching? He steals their peace, their rest, their fellowship, their power, and the list goes on. He spoils the believer of whatever he can take.

Conclusion:

Next week we will look at Colossians 2:8 in more detail to see how Paul counters the heretics.