

## ***Hearts Encouraged***

### **Colossians 2:1-7**

Paul declares to the church in Colossae that a true knowledge of Jesus Christ is the answer to all doctrinal error. He also shows his love & concern for the believers in Colossae and all believers

*1 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,*

Paul is not too proud to hide concern for believers. Pride can make us independent & aloof but Paul reveals his tender heart toward the church. Emotions of love make us vulnerable, not knowing if they love us back.

Struggle is *agona* to agonize – a concern for their spiritual condition. *Gal 4:19 I'm in travail until Christ be formed in you'* Not easy 24/7 concern. For Paul it is for those he had not yet met...he has a big heart..it is the agony of love...love sick

*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 in order that no one may delude you with persuasive argument.*

*Hearts knit* in love, permanent, like a quilt, one piece many fabrics & designs (personalities) Minds can be knit together but you can have a change of mind so it may not be permanent. It is why we are to be of the same mind knit together in love. *Phil 2:2 being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.*

*Attaining* forward movement into all *wealth* that comes from being *fully assured* in our faith in Christ

Key to experiencing this wealth of God Paul is talking about is having full assurance—a most certain, entire confidence *of understanding, resulting in a true knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ Himself*

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The *wealth* & riches of knowing Christ, having a true knowledge & understanding of Him is hidden, a mystery only to be discovered in Jesus Christ Himself.

It is the reason we are to know & have wisdom in regards to who Jesus really is. That no one delude us by persuasive arguments/speech--dialogue that is tailored in conversation to persuade in a bad sense. Used in Greek philosophy the likes of Epicurus, Thales, Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, etc.

*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. 6 As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, 7 having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.*

*Rooted* agricultural term w/ the idea of once & for all rooted, not a tumbleweed **WW** w/o roots **blown about by ever wind of doctrine of man Eph 4:14** or **Gypsy** Christian, roaming from church to church no permanent church home. Roots of the tree draws nutrients from the soil where it's planted—rooted in Christ & word of God w/ the fellowship of believers is a strong tree & believer Ps 1. Hurricane winds topple some trees w/ shallow roots while others stay standing because of deep root system. Also making a shelter by leaning on each other---trees clinging together give strength.

*Built up* a term in architecture, present tense '*being built up...a continual process*. Christ is our foundation & we are continually being built up on His foundation. To the Thessalonians 5:11 Paul tells them **to encourage one another and edify one another, just as you also are doing**' – **Edify** or edifice to build up. Jesus & disciples came out of the Temple & were going away, the disciples were struck by the impressive buildings, **edifice (lit. large imposing building)**...not one stone shall be left upon another....Matt 24.

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A continual activity in building up, making spiritual development & growth—strong faith by means of instruction, teaching out of the word of God. Paul is preparing them to counter the false teachers who come in to draw away to heretical doctrines (**truth taken to extreme**)...Baptism for salvation...tongues for salvation...giving for 100 fold payback....submission cults in 70's...

*Established* in faith thru the bible so you can discern what is false & not be deceived. Devil is a liar & the father of lies so he has his disciples to bring lies into the body of Christ that are contrary to the word of God.

*Overflowing* or abounding, to exceed the ordinary--pour into a cup to overflowing **Jn 7:37...more than enough**. **Ek 47 water bringing life** a river, torrent, not a trickle but spilling over & w/ gratitude or thanksgiving

***eucharistia*** Giving of thanks Eucharist--sacrament *used by Eastern Orthodox,*

*Oriental Orthodox, Catholics, Anglicans, Presbyterians, and Lutherans*. For us the term or symbol of body & blood of Jesus in Communion, Lord's supper.

A *joyful* Christian is and should be the norm because of our assurance of salvation & our relationship & the riches we have in Christ Jesus. A gloomy Christian is a contradiction in terms.

We see how a believer who is rooted in Christ, being built up in their faith will not be easily deceived & led astray by the devil and those who speak on his behalf.

Full assurance taps into this wealth & riches of Christ and salvation.