

The Identity of a Mature Church

Colossians 2: 1 – 7

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Series: Living in Contentment

Colossians 2: 1 - 4

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, 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.

Colossians 2: 5 - 7

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 Therefore as you 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.

A Pastor's Heart. V. 1 – 2a.

- The heart of a Pastor will agonize in prayer in concern for the church.
 - Agony like 1: 29, refers to hard struggle in prayer.
- The prayer heart of the Pastor includes Christians and churches he has not personally seen.
 - This includes all true churches around the world.
- The desired results of such prayer.
 - That churches be strengthened while under assault.
 - That churches be strongly bonded together in agape.

The Blessings of Strengthening in Love. Vv. 2b – 4.

- To attain all the wealth of being in Christ.
 - A full or complete understanding of Christ.
 - A complete knowledge of Christ.
 - In Christ is hidden to unbelievers all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.
 - This includes a full assurance of salvation and the promises of God recorded for Christians in Scripture.
- The problem – being deceived with persuasive arguments by false teachers.
 - Denying the sufficiency of Christ, His deity, truth's about salvation by grace through faith, lead to no assurance.

Therefore, Walk in Christ. Vv. 5 – 7.

- Present in Spirit and rejoicing in God's strengthening of the church.
 - Good discipline and stability of faith points to holding a strong military line against the attack.
- Receiving Christ Jesus the Lord will stick with you.
 - Rooted like a tree receiving all sustenance from Him.
 - Rooted means settled and holding fast to the roots.
 - Being built up refers to present growing in Christ.
 - Established in the faith, knowing truth as instructed.
 - Once again, overflowing with gratitude – thanksgiving.

Conclusion

- Christianity is strengthened and bonded together in agape in Christ and holds firmly to the truths of Scripture.
- All wisdom and full knowledge is available for those in Christ so we can trust God in all things and be fully assured.
- False teachings are deceptive and persuasive.
- Christians will hold to the truth, stand firm on their roots as instructed, and will be built up, established and will demonstrate Christianity with thankfulness.