

I'll Take HIM!!!! Colossians 2:1-5

In the days of the Roman Empire, a certain wealthy senator became estranged from his son.

A) When he died unexpectedly, his will was opened, it read - *'Because my son does not appreciate what I've done, I leave all of my worldly possessions to my loyal slave, Marcellus,. However, because I am a man of grace, I bequeath to my son ONE of my possessions of his choosing.'*

B) 'Sorry,' said the testator to the son. 'You can only take one of your dad's possessions. Which will it be?' The son replied - *'I take Marcellus,'*

1) Smart by taking Marcellus – he got everything else !!!

C) Well that is precisely the idea that Paul is wanting the believers in the Church of Colosse to CATCH

1) **When you take Jesus Christ**, you get all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge thrown in !!!!

D) When you open your heart to Him, you find everything you need. It's all in Him.

The occasion for this epistle that Paul wrote to the Colossians was that there were MEN who had entered into the church, and they were **undermining people's confidence in Jesus Christ.**

A) They readily admitted that Christ was important, but they also stated that **there was more that was needed.**

1) So in essence, they were saying that Christ was not sufficient for everything that they **needed in order to live a godly life.**

B) They were also saying , "You are not complete in Christ. – Listen to and follow us and we will help you become complete.

1) **So Paul wrote this epistle to combat these men.**

Now the theme of this epistle to the Colossians could be easily, "The sufficiency of Christ",

A) You see that is what Paul really drives home over and over again in this letter, that Christ is sufficient,

B) that Jesus Christ is all that we need as God's people in order to live a life that **will glorify God here on earth.**

C) Well it is here in Chapter 2 that Paul begins to address the different deceptions that were being thrown at his Colossian friends –

1) **note v.4 again 4 Now this I say lest anyone should deceive you with persuasive words.**

D) Paul was wanted to keep them from getting ripped off !!!!

When Evan Wickham our JR. High Pastor addressed the graduating 8th grade class this past Thursday – (awesome Job) –

A) He began by saying I have some good news and some Bad news for you today which do you want first – They picked the Bad –

B) This is what He told them – **THE WORLD IS AFTER YOU**

Now the good news is that GOD IS ALSO AFTER US !!!!

C) But It is True the world is after us – Entice us – Stumble us – Distract us – Destroy us – the world is after us –

1) That is Paul's concern here in the book of Colossians – and that believers would not be ripped off by the deceptions of the day

D) That their faith would be undermined & they would become shipwrecked by these men who would come into the Church to deny **the Sufficiency of Christ** w/ their Persuasive deceptions

E) The very thought of it was killing Paul - 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

The Greek word that's translated conflict in our version here, is the word from which we get our English word, to agonize.

A) And the word originally referred to athletic competition, the athletes competing against one another, striving with one another.

B) Here in this context Paul uses it to describe his prayer life, as he prayed for the Church in Colossae / It was a conflict. It was a striving. It was a battle!

1) Griffith Thomas had something quite appropriate to say in regard to prayer as conflict. He said: *"Prayer regarded as a conflict includes the two things: toil and strife."*

C) **The toil of prayer** shows us that actual work is involved in it. Prayer can be labor intensive – can be like delivering a baby – **Long and hard**

D) Sometimes, we hear the statement, *'if you can't do nothing else, you can pray,'*
1) as though prayer was the easiest of all types of Christian service. And our last RESORT.

E) In Reality Prayer should be our **first resort** but prayer is not the easiest of our Christian disciplines but in reality it is **the HARDEST** – Labor intensive

The strife involved in prayer implies opposition, a struggle against unseen foes, the forces that above all want to thwart our petitions.

A) The apostle Paul knew by actual spiritual experience that to pray was to arouse against himself a mighty opposition.

B) And it was this malignant force that made his prayer life such a great conflict."

C) QUESTION – **Do you agonize over people or do you get angry at them ?**

1) Do you complain get Critical when you see someone going astray / messing up / falling off track or do you go to battle in Prayer !!!!

D) Paul was one who Battled in Prayer !!!!

Now in the coming weeks we will explore some of the false teachings that were being thrown at these believers in Colossae –

A) But in the remainder of our time today I want to consider Paul's 4 fold plan for avoiding deception – seen in what he prays

B) Keep connected / Keep Climbing / Keep Committed / Consumed

C) Keep Connected V. 2 that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love,

The word (encouraged) is παρακαλεο / in grk = "to call alongside."

A) Because a person can be called alongside for many purposes, the word has a wide range of meanings.

B) Called along side to Help / to comfort / to exhort / to motivate

1) In the present context, it could be translated "strengthen" because the Colossians were beset by false teachers & needed strengthening rather than comfort.

C) Commentator William Barclay cites an example of παρακαλεο / from classical Greek that parallels its usage here. *There was a Greek regiment which had lost heart and was utterly dejected. The general sent a leader to talk to them in hopes that courage would be reborn and a body of dispirited men would become united and fit again for heroic action.*

D) That is what [παρακαλεο /] means here. It is Paul's prayer that the Church may be filled with that courage which can cope with any situation.

1) And part of that strengthening happens when they are KNIT TOGETHER

E) The word Knit – speaks of Connection – A rope that is intertwined

1) Connecting strands of a garment together and all of them being connected to the whole !!!!

What this means is that part of our protection against spiritual predators is living our lives in community.

A) This was important to Paul – Phil 1:27
Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel,

B) Important to JESUS – JN 17 *Jesus prayed that his disciples would be one as He and the Father were one*

C) Jesus & Paul stressed staying CONNECTED because one of the first things the devil will do is to try and isolate you.

1) Because he knows that an isolated Christian will never come to maturity in the faith.

D) There is a direct link w/ being involved w/ a body of believers and growing in maturity in Christ / as well as experiencing all that Christ has

1) Just like – my hand is **useless** in less it is connected to the Body – so too the Christian needs to be connected – Satan knows that !!!

E) And so he will do everything in his power to keep you from the fellowship of the saints.

He wants to keep you away from other believers, because when you're with other believers, what happens?

A) You get encouraged. You get comforted. You get consoled. You get exhorted. { COALS IN A FIRE – together hot / isolated cold

B) And so part of Satan's campaign against you, he will try to keep you from fellowship.

1) He will try to keep you from gathering together with other believers.

C) I am sure that you have had those experiences where – you are planning lets say to come to Bible study on Wed nite or Home fellowship on Fri

1) Horrible day everything goes wrong / Traffic / tired worn out

D) Then you get into a fight with your wife / CONDEMNED / everything that can go wrong goes wrong –

1) But later in the week – when you're going to the movies / Padres – you have a great day everything comes together - Why is that ?

E) Satan doesn't care if you go to the movies / or the Padres – but he doesn't want you to be in fellowship

1) He doesn't want you to stay connected to other believers – he would love to see you become a LONE RANGER

We're reminded of the importance of being vigilant when it comes to fellowship. In Hebrews Chapter 10, 24 *And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.*

A) See that's what fellowship is all about. It's about exhorting each other. It's about encouraging and comforting each other / **Correcting in error**

B) It's about sharing the love of Christ with one another. It is about **STIRRING ONE ANOTHER UP TO LOVE & GOOD WORKS**

1) And you see, as I hear your experiences with the Lord,& as you hear mine,& as we pray for one another, we're building each other up in the faith.

C) Listen **that type of fellowship and connection** is stuff that happens beyond the Sunday morning experience .

1) / Home groups / men's and women's fellowships

D) Not connected to a small group of believers who can encourage you in that way – I highly encourage you to get connected to a small group

So we see the importance of Staying connected / Next we see that we need to KEEP CLIMBING !!!

A) **Plague at the foot of the Alps – He died CLIMBING** – that is Paul’s heart here when he says

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.

B) God doesn’t just want to see us connected – **Knit together in love** – He wants to see us **ATTAINING** –

1) Word Attain means to **Apprehend –laying a hold of something** – Picture on the MT Climber – keeps Scaling - determined to reach the top/

C) **This is his desire, that they might attain to all riches.**

Now what are some of the riches that Paul might be talking about here?

A) I’m sure there are many things that we could think of. But two things that stand out to me, would be the **riches of joy and of peace.**

B) Now we use those terms a lot. The Bible uses them over and over again. But this is the question. Do we really have joy and peace?

1) They are indeed riches. You know why? **Because they’re rare.** It is rare to find a person who truly has joy.

C) You see, it’s one of the riches because of its rarity. It’s available in Christ. 1) **And It can’t be found anywhere outside of Christ.**

D) **There’s no joy in the world.** You have fleeting moments of happiness in the world. But Happiness is contingent on circumstances.

1) Now once in awhile, people’s circumstances work to make them happy.

E) But joy is a permanent sense **of satisfaction**, a permanent sense of thrill and excitement, because of what God has done. **There is no joy in the world.** 1) There’s joy in Christ, but

unfortunately many Christians don’t experience it - And the same is true with peace.

There’s no peace in the world. People aren’t at peace with each other. They’re not at peace with themselves.

A) And again, unfortunately there are many Christians who don’t experience peace. Why?

B) The reason is this the Riches of Peace and Joy are a result of something which results from something else. Paul makes this clear here

C) The riches are a result **of a full assurance**, or it could be translated, complete confidence.

1) The riches are a result of full assurance, or complete confidence. And complete confidence is a result of thorough understanding.

E) A thorough understanding of the Mystery of Christ – Which Paul has already cleared up for us – Ch.1:27 **Christ in you is your hope of glory**

But here is the sad thing - there are many people in the church today who do not have complete confidence in Jesus Christ.

A) They don’t have the full assurance that Jesus is all that they need. – Because they really don’t Believe that Christ is in them / With them

B) They know nothing of being led by the Spirit – to walk in the Spirit

1) New Covenant life – Responding to God’s Spirit in their hearts – to lead them -

C) They walk w/ the Lord / they serve the Lord – they try to be good Christians – all in the energy of their Flesh

Eph 3:20 *Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,*

D) Paul says that all the treasure of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in Christ – Not hidden **from us in Christ** – like it is a game of hide & seek

1) Hidden **for us in Christ** – ready to be discovered – the more that we seek Him – the more that we consider Him / Yield to Him !!!!

So Keep Climbing – keep digging into the treasure Chest of truth concerning Jesus – Result – understand how rich you are –

A) Result in a confidence in the Lord

B) Next Stay Committed v.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.*

C) Now here **were two things that Paul rejoiced over in regards to these saints.**

The first was their GOOD ORDER - The Greek word that Paul uses here **is actually a Military term that referred to a marching formation.**

A) **Speaks of discipline - connected to the 2nd which is the steadfastness of their faith.**

B) The picture here is of a **flowing river, constant, steady, always moving forward.**

1) Speaks of endurance { Staying the Course -

C) What Paul **is excited about here is faith that was in for the long haul.**

D) **Greg Laurie likes to say,** “it’s not how high you can jump that matters, but how straight you walk when you hit the ground.

1) That’s the kind of faith that Paul rejoiced over.

Keep Connected/ Climbing / committed / Lastly Consumed

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.

NKJV