

## Colossians Chapter 2 verses 1-12

***<sup>1</sup> I want you to know how much I am struggling for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally.***

This letter was to be read to the church as Laodicea located about 15 km from Colosse.

Paul is in prison while writing this letter so “struggling” is possibly struggling in prayer.

***<sup>2</sup> My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ,***

The purpose of the letter is explained here.

For the believers to be encouraged in their hearts,

United together in love

Completely understanding the mystery

The mystery is explained in Chapter 1:27, ‘CHRIST IN YOU’

***<sup>3</sup> in Whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.***

Christ is our source for wisdom

Christ is also our source for knowledge

He wants to live His life in and through the believer.

***<sup>4</sup> I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments.***

The apostle Paul is warning the believers not to be intimidated by fine-sounding arguments. He was teaching against a heresy that knowledge is a means of Salvation called **Gnosticism**.

We are saved by faith, not by knowledge

In the world knowledge is called Power. For the believer

Christ is our strength and power – not knowledge

***<sup>5</sup> For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how orderly you are and how firm your faith in Christ is.***

Paul had heard about their faith in Christ

And that they were living orderly lives

**<sup>6</sup> So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in Him,**

To Live in Christ is an intimate and living union with Christ

**<sup>7</sup> rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.**

Our daily strength is three-fold: rooted and built up in Him

Strengthened in our faith and overflowing with thankfulness

**<sup>8</sup> See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.**

Another warning that our belief and behavior must be based on the teaching and life of Christ

Not on false philosophy and human traditions and basic principles of the world

**<sup>9</sup> For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form,**

All the fullness of God was in Christ and all could see it.

The power to heal the sick, raise the dead and control the wind and the waves.

**<sup>10</sup> and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority.**

The believer is complete in Christ and lacks nothing

**<sup>11</sup> In him you were also circumcised, in the putting off the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ,**

**Circumcision** was a sign that the individual stood in a covenant relationship with God

Christ cut all bondage we have to the sinful nature and reconciled us to God.

**<sup>12</sup> having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.**

Baptism is a sign that we died with Christ to sin

And **through faith** (not through baptism) raised to a new life in Christ