

Colossians 2
CONTINUE
October 9th, 2016

CONTINUE IN JESUS AND ONLY JESUS!

Introduction: vs. 1-6

Paul is struggling, for you and for those in Laodicea and for all who have not met me personally.

What possessed Paul to struggle and face jail for someone he not met personally?

The word for struggle means agony. What was he struggling over?

Paul is in prison and he would love to visit and figure out these false teachers but he can't.

There are times when you can do nothing but pray!

And sometimes prayer is the best thing you can do!

He also was in prison. Nero was the emperor that was going to make a judgment on him.

- Paul's goal is that the Colossians would be encouraged.

Greek word - **Parakalein** - Meaning comfort, exhort, but more powerfully infuse courage!

Greek historian uses it in the most interesting and thought provoking way.

There was a Greek regiment which had lost heart and was utterly dejected. The general sent a leader to talk to it to such purposes that courage was reborn and a body of dispirited men became fit again for heroic action.

This is **Parakalein**.

Equipped with every kind of wisdom and knowledge.

Wisdom is Sophia - the power to confirm and to commend the truth with wise and intelligent argument once it has been intuitively grasped.

Knowledge is Gnosis - the power, almost intuitive and instinctive to grasp the truth when we see it and hear it.

All this wisdom Paul says is hidden in Christ.

The truth is that Christianity is not a secret which is hidden but a secret which is revealed to all people who desire to know!

Do you desire Knowledge and Wisdom about eternal life, life to the full. People pay a motivational speaker all the money in the world but only one thing matters. Christ!

That they may know the Mystery of God namely Christ.

No one may deceive you by fine sounding arguments.

He said he was delighted to see how **disciplined** you are and how **firm** your faith **in Christ is!**

Firm means - solid defense, unmovable against the impact of the enemy's charge.

We must remember that there is no Christianity without a connection to Christ. We are Christians must be on our guard from our actions and deceptive philosophies so we don't lose connection to the HEAD that is Christ.

We maintain that connection through

Continue and Stay in Jesus!

1. **Continue to live in Jesus vs 6-15**

The only way to live in Jesus is to continue to make him Lord!

Why do you call me Lord, Lord and do not do what I say? -

You received Christ as Lord

- Greek Word for Lord - is "Kyrios"-

I remember when I started to follow Jesus and I made Jesus Lord!

How have you received Christ? As Lord or just Messiah?

Luke 14:25-28, 33

Acts 2:36

2 Peter 3:18

Luke 4:46

-The supreme authority

-He to whom a person or thing belongs, about which he has power of deciding; master,

-The possessor and disposer of a thing.

-In the state, the sovereign, prince, chief, the emperor.

Continuing to make him Lord

Paul is saying nothing else is needed.

And not in anyone or anything else.

Rooted and Built up in Jesus - How? by being strengthened in the faith.

He canceled the written code with its regulations that was again just and that stood opposed to us, he took it away, nailing it to the cross.

And having disarmed the power and authorities.

See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.

- Human traditions - just be a good person and you will make it to heaven, good works vs grace.
- Deceptive philosophy - there is not truth it is all social constructs. There is no right and wrong it is all a matter of perspective.

For in Christ all the fullness of the DEITY lives in Bodily form!
Christ was 100% God and 100% Man!

VERY POWERFUL STATEMENT - IN CHRIST you have been brought to that FULLNESS!
What fullness? The fullness of DEITY.
He is head over every power and authority!!!!!!

In him you were also circumcised not performed by hands of man but by Christ.
Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised in Christ.

False teaching was threatening the church because if lose Christ your faith does not hold together, your salvation does not continue, Christ is the central most important thing in our faith. Much like you cannot live without a brain, you cannot live with out a heart. So in our faith we cannot live without Christ.

2. Continue to Stay Connected to the Head - vs. 16-23

Paul is essentially saying CHRIST IS ALL YOU NEED AND THE BATTLE IS TO STAY CONNECTED TO THE HEAD! (THAT IS CHRIST)

Stay focused, stay connected, don't let anyone distract you from the Head.

In this world there are so many distractions that try to stop you.

And there are so many distractions that try to take away your connection from Christ!

Trying to teach people an additional philosophy. As they saw it, the simple truth preached by Jesus and preserved in the gospel as not enough. It had to be filled out by an elaborate system of pseudo-philosophical thought which was far too difficult for **ORDINARY** people and which only intellectuals could understand.

They wanted to accept a system of astrology - elements of the world.

They wanted to impose circumcision on Christians, vs 11. A mark in the flesh was to take the place of, or at least be an addition and attitude of the heart.

They wanted to lay down rules and regulations for self-denial. They wanted to introduce all kinds of rules and regulations about what might be eaten and drunk and about what days must be observed as festivals and fasts. All the old Jewish regulations - and more - were to be brought back.

They wanted to introduce worship of angels. They were teaching that Jesus was only one of many intermediaries between God and human beings, and that these intermediaries must receive their worship.

Mixture of Gnosticism and Judaism.

- Intellectual knowledge and astrology come direct from Gnosticism.
- Self-Denial - and rules and regulations come from Judaism.

People want to complicate things. I do sometimes.

- Adding on and Taking away from Jesus.

The one thing that is certain is that the false teachers taught that Jesus Christ and his teaching and work were not in themselves sufficient for salvation.

What about us.? How do we get distracted.

What teachings do we are we tempted to add on:

- **Materialism and the American Dream**
- **Easy Believism**
- **Everything in Moderation even Jesus**
- **Post Modernism**
- **Do what your heart feels right (What about Self-Denial)**

Paul then shows the fruit of these extra gnostic and jewish teachings.

They lack any VALUE in restraining sensual indulgences!

CHILDREN'S SONG - Jesus said that we must become like a little child if we want to enter the kingdom!

**Christ is all I need,
Christ is all I need,
All, all I need,
Christ is all I need,
Christ is all I need,
All, all I need.**

**He was crucified,
For me He died, on Calvary.
That He loved me so,
This is why I know,
Christ is all I need.**

*** Let us continue and not let anyone stop us from continuing in Jesus because it is all we need!**