

Paul's Agony For The Colossians

Colossians 2:1-7

Intro:

- A. Paul laboured mightily for his Lord.
 - 1. 1:28, 29 Paul preached, warning, and teaching.
 - 2. God energized Paul mightily.
- B. 2:1 Paul agonized for them and others.
 - 1. "Conflict" = αγων = "struggle", "agony".
 - 2. Some had come into the church and they had not seen the face of Paul.

I. What Paul Agonized For Them.

- A. "That their hearts might be comforted..."
 - 1. "Comforted" = παρακαλεω = "to encourage".
 - 2. "May their hearts be cheered..."
- B. "being knit together in love,..."
 - 1. "knit together" = συμβιβαζω = "to bring together".
 - 2. "Welded together in love..." - Wey
- C. "and unto all riches of full (the) assurance of understanding..."
 - 1. "Assurance" = πληροφορια = "firm conviction".
 - 2. "Understanding" = συνεσις = "insight".
 - 3. "to possess an abundance of absolute certainty in regard to comprehending..."
- D. "...to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ;"
 - 1. "Acknowledgement" = επιγνωσις = "full knowledge".
 - 2. "to a total understanding, of the revealed truth of God the Father and of Christ."
- E. To know Christ is to know the source.
 - 1. Vs. 3 "In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."
 - 2. "Hid" = αποκρυφος = "hidden away from".
 - 3. "Treasures" = θησαυρος = "store house".
 - 4. "Wisdom" = σοφιας = "application of knowledge".
 - 5. "Knowledge" = γνωσεως = "accumulated

information".

II. The Reason Paul Was In Agony.

- A. "And this I say,
1. "And this is the reason..."
 2. Paul was aware of a threat to them.
- B. "...lest any man should beguile you with enticing words.
1. "Beguile" = παραλογίζομαι = "to reckon wrong", "to cheat by false reckoning", "to deceive by false reasoning". The word was used in the papyri of a keeper of a state library who had shown a willingness to "make a wrong use of" certain documents. Paul uses the word here to point to drawing an erroneous conclusion from the reasoning submitted. The prep. in compound has the idea of counting "beside" or counting "aside" with the idea of "miscalculating".
 2. "Enticing words" = πιθανολογια = "persuasive speech". The word was used by classical writers from probable reasoning and opposed to demonstration (Abbott). The word is used in the papyri in a court case of those who sought persuasive words to keep the things obtained by robbery (Lohse;MM). The terminology used here is practically equivalent to our English expression, "to talk someone into something".

III. Paul Was Present With Them.

- A. Vs. 5 "For though I be absent in the flesh..."
1. "Absent" = απιεμι = "to be away from".
 2. "Although I am far away in person..."
- B. "...yet am I with you in the Spirit, joying and beholding you order..."
1. "Joying" = χαιρω = "to be delighted".
 2. "Beholding" = βλεπω = "to act of seeing", (honest, serious, spiritual contemplation)
 3. "Order" = ταξις = "rank", "staying in rank".
 4. "I am delighted to witness your good disciple" -
Wey

- C. "...and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ."
 1. "Steadfastness" = στερεωμα = "firm", "solid", hence "stability". This may mean "a solid front".
 2. "and the solid front presented by your faith in Christ" - Wey

IV. They Must Live As Christians.

- A. Vs. 6 "As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:"
 1. "Received" = παραλαμβανω = "to receive through transmission", "to receive through teaching".
 2. "Walk" = περιπατω = "to walk about", "to conduct one's life".
 3. The Colossians should live their lives according to the example of Christ as taught to them by Paul and not to be guided by the, "salesmen for Jesus".
- B. Vs. 7 "Rooted and built up in him...,"
 1. "Rooted" = ριζωω = "to cause to take root". It may be used to picture the firm and solid foundation.
 2. "Built up" = εποικοδομω = "to build upon".
 3. They were on a solid foundation and should keep on building upon it.
- C. "...and stablished in the faith..."
 1. "Stablished" = βεβαιωω = "to make steadfast", "to confirm", "of things, to corroborate, ratify".
 2. "And making yourselves (by your lifestyle) ratify and confirm that you are in the faith."
- D. "...as ye have been taught..."
 1. "Taught" = διδασκω = "to give instruction or direction".
 2. Stay with what you have been taught!
- E. "...abounding therein with thanksgiving."
 1. "Abounding" = περισσευω = "to overflow".
 2. "overflowing with gratitude."