

Colossians 2:1–5

<sup>1</sup> 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,

<sup>2</sup> that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, 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,

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

<sup>4</sup> Now this I say lest anyone should deceive you with persuasive words.

<sup>5</sup> 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.

*Would the Real Jesus Please Stand Up  
Colossians 2:1-5*

INTRO:

Do you remember the TV quiz show “*To Tell the Truth?*” On this show a true contestant and two fake contestants were questioned by the panel. In the end, the host would say, “Would the real (fill in the name) please stand up? Real person would then stand up and reveal who he really was. In a real sense, Colossians is about Who the Real Jesus Christ is.

In our text, Paul expressed his concern for those believers who had never met him. He was concerned that they should know the treasures in the Lord Jesus Christ.

*I. Paul’s Burden (v. 1-2)*

*II. The Wealth in Christ (3-5)*

*I. Paul’s Burden (v. 1-2)*

**Colossians 2:1–2** *“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, in order that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, 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.”*

A. We had noted before that Paul had never been to Colossae. He did not start the Colossian church. The Colossian church was one of several churches he had never visited.

The fact he had not started these churches did not imply that the Apostle was unconcerned about them. On the contrary, Paul had a great struggle for these folks.

B. Paul desired first that these Christians might be encouraged by their unity in love. The love in God in us should manifest itself in a love for our brothers and sisters in Christ.

C. Second, he wanted them to have a full understanding of the mystery of God which is Christ. He wants the believers who have never seen him to continually grow their understanding of this mystery that Christ is in us and Who our Lord Jesus Christ is. Remember when we looked at **2 Peter 3:18**? We must grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Paul's passion is for us to grow up into Christ.

## ***II. The Wealth in Christ (3-5)***

**Colossians 2:3–5** *“In whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Now this I say lest anyone should deceive you with persuasive words. 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.”*

A. We must know the Lord Jesus Christ and not the substitute because in Him are hidden all the treasury of wisdom and knowledge. The word treasury is a container for riches. Our Lord Jesus Christ contains all there is to possess of wisdom and knowledge. Many folks major on many things. But we must master who Jesus is and what He is here to teach us. Nothing is as important as knowing him.

1. We see one example of the hidden riches in Christ in **1 Corinthians 1:30**;  
*“And because of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption,”*

**Ephesians 1:7-8** *“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence,”*

B. We must know Christ because some will try to deceive you. This is Satan's great tool. He loves to deceive us and seek to get us to accept the counterfeit and not the true Christ. False teachers taught about a Jesus, just not the real Christ.

C. We must be careful because others are watching us.  
**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.”*

Paul wanted them to understand that others (especially Paul himself) were aware of their testimony. They followed the orderly way as designed by the Lord, and their faith was unshakably upon Christ. They would take no substitutes. They must never let someone substitute their false Christ for the real thing.

Application:

1. We must be growing in Christ so that we are encouraged by our love for one another and so we begin to understand the mystery of Who this Christ is who lives in us.
2. We must know Him because in Him we find the treasury of all of God's wisdom and knowledge.
3. We must know Him because others will try to deceive us and draw us away from the real Jesus.
4. Lastly, we must know Him because others are affected by our faith and lives ordered in God.