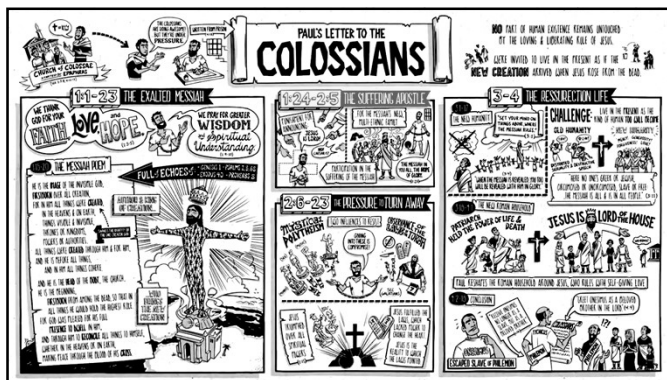


NEW LIFE WITH CHRIST

The Book of Colossians

GOD'S MYSTERY, WHICH IS CHRIST (2:1-5)

1



2

PAUL'S STRUGGLE FOR THE CHURCHES (1:29-2:1)

For this [maturity in Christ] I **toil**,
struggling with all his **energy**
 that he **powerfully** works within me. ^{4:8}

For I want you to know how great a **struggle**
 I have for *you* and for those at *Laodicea*
 and for *all* who have not seen me face to face,

3

THE PURPOSE OF HIS STRUGGLE (2)

that their hearts may be **encouraged**,
 being knit together in **love**,

to reach *all the riches*
 of full *assurance* of **understanding**
 and the **knowledge** of God's **mystery**,
which is Christ,
 in whom are **hidden**
 all the **treasures** of **wisdom**
 and **knowledge**.

4

understanding knowledge mystery hidden treasures wisdom	Then the mystery was revealed... he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding ; he reveals deep and hidden things; (Daniel 2:19, 21-22)
Though "wisdom" and "understanding" and rarely even the additional word "knowledge", occur together throughout the LXX, the addition of "treasures" and "hidden", in close conjunction with these three words, yields a fivefold word combination that is unique in all the OT...The Messiah is now the grandest expression of divine wisdom" ~People	For if you should call upon wisdom , utter your voice for understanding , and if...you should s earch for her as treasures , then you will understand ... and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord gives wisdom , and from his presence is knowledge and understanding. (Proverbs 2:3-6 LXX)

5

THE IMPORTANCE
 OF UNDERSTANDING THE MYSTERY (4-5)

I say this in order that
 no one may **delude** you with plausible arguments.

For though I am **absent** in body,
 yet I am **with you** in spirit,
rejoicing to see your **good order**
 and the **firmness** of your faith in Christ.

6

RESPONSE

- The Wisdom that is at the source of all truth is not a system, but a person - Jesus Christ the Messiah
- This is the person who is the object of our faith
 - Thus, wisdom comes through a living relationship with Him, not merely a cognitive acceptance of right theology
- This is the person who is the way, the truth, and the life, which binds us together as a community
- It is He who trumps all false philosophies, ideologies, and traditions that separate us from one another to keep from sin and error,
- This is done as we are encouraged and in relationships of love
