"The Sufficiency of Christ"

(Encouragement for the Heart)
Colossians 2:1-10
10-30-2021

INTRODUCTION: Verse 1

***Your heart will be encouraged when you know all that you have IN CHRIST!**

I. **You are RICH in Him -**
Don't be FOOLED (v. 2-5)

II. **You are ROOTED in Him -**
Don't be MOVED (v. 6-8)

III. **You are COMPLETE in Him -**
Don't FEEL DEFICIENT (v. 9-10)

"The Sufficiency of Christ"

(Encouragement for the Heart)
Colossians 2:1-10
10-30-2021

INTRODUCTION: Verse 1

***Your <u>heart</u> will be <u>encouraged</u> when you know all that you have <u>IN CHRIST</u>!**

I. **You are _____ in Him -**
Don't be _____ (v. 2-5)

II. **You are _____ in Him -**
Don't be _____ (v. 6-8)

III. **You are _____ in Him -**
Don't _____ (v. 9-10)

"The Sufficiency of Christ"

(Encouragement for the Heart)
Colossians 2:1-10
10-30-2021

INTRODUCTION: Verse 1

Illus: See Paul's warning to the Ephesians against false teachers - Acts 20.

Paul had a great conflict (an intense struggle; an agonizing struggle) for the spiritual welfare of the Gentile believers, even those whom he never met before - like the Colossians.

Why such a conflict? What was the intention (the driving force) behind his ministry and prayer for believers?

ANSWER: In order that their hearts might be comforted (encouraged) (v. 2).

***Your heart will be encouraged when you know all that you have IN CHRIST!**

Note the constant references to "in Him" ["in whom" (v. 3); "in Christ" (v. 5); "in Him" (v. 6); "in Him" (v. 7); "in Him" (v. 9); "in Him" (v. 10)]

I. You are RICH in Him -
Don't be FOOLED (v. 2-5)

"Rich" with what? ANSWER: Rich in wisdom and spiritual knowledge; rich in spiritual understanding.

v. 2
"Knit together in love" - The believers' heart is encouraged when he (via his union with Christ) realizes the love of Christ for him.

This realization of the love of God (through his salvation) is the common bond that unites believers together also.

God has basically two goals (Note: the two prepositions - "eis") for His children to reach after they have experienced the love that knit us to Himself.

GOAL # 1 - That they would have a full confidence ("plarophoria") in God's salvation

GOAL # 2 - That they would have a full knowledge ("epiginosko") of God's Son.

Note: These two goals are interrelated - You cannot have full confidence in God's salvation without a full or direct knowledge in who Jesus is and what He has done. The believer's confidence is based on his knowledge of Christ.

If Satan can be successful in confusing someone with regard to who Jesus Christ is, he then is also successful in crippling their joy, peace, security, and confidence that comes in Christ.

"Full assurance of understanding" = firm confidence or conviction because of the insight into the person and work of Jesus Christ.

To have total assurance is the key to an encouraged heart. Those who lack assurance of their salvation generally are downhearted, discouraged, or even depressed.

"The mystery of God" - is the uncovered, revealed truth about Jesus Christ!

As Paul said previously, God's rich and glorious mystery is simply defined as: Christ in you, the hope of glory" (1:27).

V. 3

"In whom" = in Christ (v. 2) are hid (stored away) all the treasures (stock-piled riches) of spiritual wisdom and knowledge.

Where is the spiritual wisdom and knowledge to be found?

Not in religion, but in Christ.
Not in Rome (RCC), but in Christ.
Not in man's philosophy or tradition (v. 8), but in Christ.

"Hid" - Why hid? Because no one who is outside of Christ has even the slightest key to spiritual wisdom and knowledge.
To be without Christ is to be without spiritual truth. He is the truth (Jn. 14:6).

"It is in Christ that all the treasures of divine wisdom and knowledge have been stored up - stored up in hiding formerly, but now displayed to those who have come to know Christ" (F.F. Bruce, cited by Reinecker, p. 571).
To have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ is to hold the key to the only true source of spiritual understanding.

Such knowledge is not gained from any textbook, seminar, prophet, cult, or religion, but from a direct faith in Christ.

V. 4
"Beguile" = "para logizomai" - to deceive by using man's logic alongside God's truth.

"Beguile" - "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" (Reinecker, p. 572).

"Enticing words" - persuasive speech; to have the ability with words to "talk somebody into something."
"Enticing words" - "The word was used in the papyri in a court case of those who sought persuasive words to keep the things obtained by robbery" (Reinecker, p. 572).
Romans 16:17-18 - "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple."

V. 5
Paul, via his position as an apostle, is with the Colossians "in the spirit" - that is, with the Holy Spirit's authority. His loving warning via this Epistle comes from the Spirit.

Paul observed and rejoiced in two characteristics of the Colossians:

1. Their "order" - a military term. Despite the attacks by the heretics, the Colossians remained in a single line, in single file, in an orderly arrangement prepared for spiritual battle. They were not scattered by winds of false doctrine.

2. Their "steadfastness" - their firmness, their solidness. Their faith in Christ kept them solid. Faith is the victory that overcomes the weakening effects of the world and its influences and philosophies (cp. I Jn. 5:4).

It is not simply "faith" that gives stability in life; it is faith in Christ!
"Faith" does you no good if it is anchored in the wrong object.

II. You are ROOTED in Him -
Don't be MOVED (v. 6-8)

V. 6

How did the Colossians receive Christ? ANSWER: By faith in Him (v. 5 & 7).

Therefore, how are they to walk in Him? ANSWER: By faith in Him!

"We walk by faith, not by sight"

"The just shall live by faith" (Hab. 2:4; Rom. 1:17; Gal. 3:11; Heb. 10:38).

One is not only saved by faith, but he lives the Christian life by faith. From start to finish, our Christian life is a life of faith!

V. 7

"Rooted" - to be deeply rooted in Christ. The idea is that of long roots that have been imbedded and intertwined permanently around Christ never to be removed.

"Rooted" - perfect, passive, participle -

"Perfect tense" = we were rooted in the past (at conversion) and thereby remain firmly settled and stable in the present.

"Passive tense" = it was God who rooted us, not we ourselves. Give Him the glory!

A tree that has been firmly rooted will have three features:

1. Growth - "built up" = it is via our rootedness in Christ that we are continually edified and matured.

2. Stability - "stablished" - it is via our "rootedness" in Christ that we have any true strength at all. "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

3. Abundant fruitfulness = "abounding with thanksgiving" = overflowing with praise and thanks to God for all He gave us in Christ.

Psalm 1:3 - "And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."

V. 8

"Beware" - be on the look out; keep your spiritual eyes open.

"Spoil you" - to carry off as booty, or as a captive. The word was used in the sense of "to kidnap"; and here is the figure of carrying someone away from the truth into the slavery of error (Reinecker, p. 473).

"Philosophy" - lit. to be fond of man's wisdom (Ex. Acts 17).

Look out for those who will lead you away by using their own ideas as the bait.

"Vain deceit" - empty or hollow trickery. Words without reality; promises without truth; messages without Christ at the core.

"Tradition" - that which is given over from one to another.

"Tradition" is a great danger to true Godliness. it unperceivably becomes a substitute for God's truth. Ex: Jesus' words - Mark 7:1-13 (*v. 7-9); cp. Mt. 15:2-6.

"The rudiments of the world" - the elementary ABC's of the world. The basics to life and success that the world offers.

III. You are COMPLETE in Him -
Don't FEEL DEFICIENT (v. 9-10)

V. 9
"In Him" - in Christ (v. 8)

"Dwelleth" - to reside; to be at home; all that you need has its home in Christ. He is the place where fullness dwells.

"All the fullness" - Christ is missing nothing. Everything that the Father has, Christ has, because of his oneness with the Father (Jn. 10:30) and his equality to the Father (Phil. 2:6).

"Godhead" = Godness; divine nature or essence.

"Bodily" - Christ, though He became man and even now appears as man in Heaven, houses his complete deity in physical form. While on earth, His body veiled from human view His divine nature, but it was within, though many did not recognize it.

V. 10
"Complete" = lit. filled to completion. Because of our union with Christ (which is Paul's point in the context - cp. 1:27; 2:12=13, etc.), we are lacking nothing in Christ. He is everything we will ever need.

Because Jesus lacks nothing, we lack nothing!

By being united to Christ (via the Holy Spirit's baptism - I Cor. 12:13; Rom. 6:1ff; Col. 2:12-13), we share His way, His truth, His life.

“Complete in Him” – All He has is mine. Just as it is in a good marriage! What the groom has the bride has. She marries into the wealth and blessing of the groom.

Principality - rulership; Christ is at the top of everything!

Power - authority; Christ is over everything.

CONCLUSION:
Illustration: Cheese & crackers