



## **Colossians: Jesus Over Everything**

August 27 – Colossians 2:1-5

### **Section 1: Introduction**

This week we're going to spend some time with Colossians 2:1-5. This passage reiterates Paul's deep commitment to bringing the gospel to the people of Colossae and Laodicea. While the letter is primarily addressed to the Colossians, Paul makes a point of including Laodiceans in this message. Laodicea, a wealthy city of trade and commerce, was located a few miles northwest of Colosse. The church in Laodicea was likely founded by one of Paul's converts while Paul was staying in Ephesus.

In the previous passages, Paul has offered thanksgiving and prayer for the Colossians and has spent time in doctrinal discussion of the person and work of Jesus Christ. In this passage and the one immediately before it, Paul transitions to his ministerial convictions. Paul wanted the new Christians to be well grounded in their beliefs so they would not be deceived by a counterfeit gospel. We have seen Paul's pastoral care for those he is writing to, and it continues in the passage we will spend time in this week.

As we read this passage, we're invited to prayerfully listen for God's invitation for how we would be called to share the gospel with those who need to hear it.

Read Colossians 1:24-29 (for context).

Then, read Colossians 2:1-5

## Section 2: Walk slowly through your passage

Verse 1:

1. What was the struggle Paul had for the people of Colossae and Laodicea?
2. Why is knowing of this struggle important to these believers who he has not met personally?

Verse 2:

1. What is Paul's invitation to the Colossian and Laodicean believers here?
2. For what purpose are the believers to be united in love?

Verse 3:

1. What assurance is Paul offering the readers?
2. How is Paul de-mystifying the gospel message?

Verse 4:

1. How does Paul describe the lure of false teachings?
2. Why might the new believers be easily influenced by heresy?

Verse 5:

1. What is Paul saying about the Colossian believers when he describes their *order* and *firmness of faith*?
2. Why might Paul be using words that would evoke military context to affirm them?

### Section 3: Reflection questions

- Like early Christians, we are confronted with competing messages that aim to draw us away from the true message of Christ. What are some of those false teachings?
- What does it look like to combat heresy while being *united in love*? Can you give an example of when you have seen this done well?
- Verses 2 and 3 encourage the believers to rest assured because Jesus is the source of all wisdom and knowledge. How assured are you that all wisdom and knowledge is found in Jesus? In what areas of your life do you need to deepen your trust in him?
- What is required of you in order for you to maintain firm faith?

### Section 4: Pray the Scriptures

Using Colossians 2:1-5, write out a prayer in response to what you've read or use the prayer already constructed below to pray this passage.

[Sample prayer]

Lord Jesus,

You alone contain all the hidden treasure of wisdom and knowledge. Wealth and wisdom that is not of you will bankrupt my soul. Help me to discern the messages I absorb and may only your truth be stitched into the fabric of my faith. Do not let me be deceived by attractive half-truths presented by the world. Lord, encourage my heart so that I may be comforted and comfort those around me. Help me to continue to seek

unity in love with those in my community and grow firm in my faith, for the sake of others.

In Jesus' name,  
Amen.

### **Section 5: Memorize Scripture**

Throughout this series, we want to be memorizing Scripture. Use the prompts below to help you get Colossians 2:1-5 into your heart and mind.

1. Write out the passage: Write down Colossians 2:1-5 in your journal or on a notecard.
2. Memorize Colossians 2:2-3. Using various techniques to memorize the passage, such as repeating it out loud, creating visual associations, or setting it to a melody or rhythm, take time to commit these verses to memory.
3. Review and practice: Regularly review the passage throughout the week. Recite it from memory and reflect on its meaning and significance.