

We Are Rich in Christ

Colossians 2:1

We have studied Theology proper in Colossians 1.

Theology of JESUS CHRIST.

We have studied Pneumatology in Colossians 1:

Theology of the Holy Spirit.

So, before we leave chapter 1 let us take a quick look at what Chapter 1 teaches about us... **believers in JESUS CHRIST.**

Here we learn something about interpretation and application in the study of the Bible.

We note that this letter—Book of Colossians was written to believers in the ancient city of Colossae.

Colossians 1:2

2 **To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are at Colossae.**

So, if—since this book is written to these believers, why is it part of the Word of God? **Why is it for us?**

Because what is said to these believers applies to all believers throughout the Church Age. So, what we learn from this applies to us in our daily lives and in our journey as Christians.

So, let us take a run through **Chapter 1** to see what we have learned about ourselves.

1 We are **saints in Christ.** verse 2

2 We should make daily decisions to be 'faithful' believers. verse 2

3 **We are saints because of our Faith in JESUS CHRIST.** verse 4

4 **We should have and exhibit
Spiritual Love toward One Another.**

verse 4

We cannot move on without noting how important points 3 and 4 are as per 1 John 3:21-23

21 **Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God;**

22 **and whatever we ask we receive from Him,** confidence in your prayer life **because we keep His commandments**
uh oh, all the commandments in the Mosaic Law?

No!

We learn His commandments right here
and there are only two:

and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.

We have to know Him and His Word to know
what is **PLEASING IN HIS SIGHT.**

23 **This is His commandment,**
[1] **that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and**
[2] **love one another,** Spiritual Love from the Holy Spirit
just as He commanded.

So, we see that what John says here in verse 23 is what Paul is saying in Colossians 1:4.

5 Every believer has a 'HOPE' (confidence) verse 5
laid up for us in heaven.

6 By the grace of God, each of us have heard verse 6
the Gospel of truth.

7 Our part is to learn and keep on learning verse 7
the Word of God.

8 We should desire and **make decisions** verse 9
to be filled with the knowledge of
His will in all spiritual wisdom
and understanding.

9 We are to walk—live—worthy of the verse 10
Lord which means we are to walk in Faith
in the Holy Spirit.

10 We should please Him in all respects of verse 10
our lives.

11 We should bear fruit in every good work— verse 10
fruit of the Holy Spirit.

12 We should **keep on increasing in** verse 10
the Knowledge of God, which means
keep on learning the Word of God.

13 Continually **Filled with the Holy** verse 11
Spirit—strengthened with power.

14 We all share in the eternal inheritance. verse 12

15 We are rescued from the domain of darkness—that is from the kingdom of Satan by JESUS CHRIST, by our Faith in JESUS CHRIST. verse 13

16 God the Father has transferred us to the Kingdom of His Beloved Son. verse 13

17 Each and every one of us **have been redeemed by JESUS CHRIST.** verse 14

18 Each and every one of us **have been forgiven of all our sins.** verse 14

19 Each and every one of us have been created by JESUS CHRIST. verse 16

20 Each and every one of us have been created **for Him.** verse 16

21 He is our head, **our authority.** verse 18

22 He is to have **first place in our lives** verse 18
Colossians 1.

23 We are **reconciled to God through** verse 20
JESUS CHRIST.

24 We should never forget our position verse 21
before salvation:

We were alienated from God,
hostile in mind against God;
engaged in all evil deeds.

25 The 25th point requires a little
understanding. I hope that none of you
fall into the exegetical trap that a lot
people present in their reading and
misunderstanding of verse 23.

1 Colossians 1:23

23 **if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast and not move away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard...**

This is the kind of passage people like John McArthur uses in his Lordship Salvation and that so many use to show that you can lose your salvation. No one, who has believed in JESUS CHRIST as Savior and received the 34 things God the Father gives to you, can lose any of these grace gifts God has given to you. So, what is going on?

I pray that every one of you can answer the question raised in verse 23.

To correctly understand verse 23, you have to first correctly understand verses 21-23.

These three verses are one sentence in the Greek and must be understood in that one sentence. To simply what is going on in these three verses:

One:	The state we were in before Salvation.	verse 21
Two:	The state we are in all eternity.	Verse 22a
Three:	Rewards at the Judgment Seat of Christ determined by how we live as Christians; IN THE FLESH which results in loss of rewards or IN THE FILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT which results in rewards at the Judgment Seat of Christ.	verse 22b-23

So, the 25th Principle we learn about ourselves as Christians is that **we are to live in the Spirit Filled Life, producing Righteous good works with the result that we receive rewards at the Judgment Seat of Christ**

26 The gift of Pastor-Teacher is for our benefit. verse 25

This epistle –Colossians –is not written to Colossae alone but also to all believers in the Province of Phrygia which lies next to Province of Galatia. In Phrygia was located three notable churches: COLOSSAE, LAODICEA and HIERAPOLIS. You might recall that LAODICEA eventually fell out of the Plan of God, not walking by Faith in the Holy Spirit. They are the ones of which JESUS CHRIST said: **“You Are Neither Hot Nor Cold”**.

Now we are ready for Colossians 2:1-3

1 **For I want you to know how great a struggle I have on your behalf and for those who are at Laodicea, and for all those who have not personally seen my face,**

2 **that their hearts may be encouraged, having been knit together in love, and *attaining* to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, *resulting* in a true knowledge of God’s mystery, *that is, Christ Himself,***

3 **in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge**

1 For I want you to know how great a struggle I have on your behalf

This is the **ANGELIC CONFLICT** for Paul...

struggle is the Greek word used for describing an event in the games like wrestling match or it can be used in military to describe 'hand to hand combat'.

I have or I KEEP ON HAVING on your account for your benefit.

And for those of you who are at Laodicea, in fact, for all the believers in Phrygia **and for all those who have not personally seen my face**.

Obviously, Paul is not selling pictures of his face! What this refers to is that none of these believers in Phrygia have sat under **'FACE TO FACE'** teaching with Paul. This, of course is God's design in establishing local churches. One local assembly sitting under the teaching of one man, gifted as Pastor-Teacher, who studies and teaches the Word of God, and unfortunately most of these people have not sat under Paul.

Now what happens when there is not authoritative teaching of the Word of God? Well, all kinds of things.

One thing that is happening here in Phrygia is the infiltration of heretical teaching... here that is Gnosticism.

In America today, there are so many branches of heretical teaching. That is teaching that is in contradiction to the truth of Scripture, and these teachers can make it sound so good... so right.

For one reason, he has been in prison for some 4 years.

2 Paul desired that they could sit under his teaching face to face **in order that their hearts may be encouraged;**

This is vital when believers are faced with the enticement of false teaching. First, note the area to be encouraged... the heart! This is a reference to the REAL YOU, **your soul** and while we have but one heart it has many parts and each part must be stabilized and encouraged.

You are familiar with the Greek word **encouraged**. It is the AORIST PASSIVE SUBJUNCTIVE of **parakaleo**. That's right, this is the root word for the title of the Holy Spirit. When JESUS CHRIST was talking with His disciples in the upper room the night before His crucifixion He told the disciples that He would ask the father to send them **another parakletos –another one just like Him**, that is deity; but not in human form but a spirit. The Spirit of Truth... Holy Spirit.

This word **parakletos** is the noun form of our word **parakaleo** and both words carry a wide range of ministries of JESUS CHRIST and of the Holy Spirit. To come to the side of someone for the purpose of giving them aid, comfort, and encouragement.

Ok, so let us see how this works, every believer already has in them the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and here is Paul speaking of his encouragement to these believers.

In understanding Spirituality, you must understand that the Holy Spirit needs something to work with inside of every believer. This is the purpose of the Word of God. So, here comes Paul to teach them the Word of God and in teaching them, encouraging them by the teaching of truth to counter the false teaching going around within the churches in Phrygia.

Now the objective of encouraging these believers is in the Passive voice which means they will receive encouragement by Paul's teaching and the Ministry of the Holy Spirit. But it is in the Subjunctive mood goes with the purpose clause and points out that maybe they will be encouraged and maybe not.

What determines if they will be encouraged or not?

This will depend on three actions on their part:

[1] Be under the ministry of the Holy Spirit by Faith in the Holy Spirit.

[2] Disciplining themselves to consistently sitting under the teaching of the Word of God.

[3] Believing the Word of God.

Then, and only then, can the Holy Spirit and the Word of God give comfort to you in your life.

having been knit together in love, if we could only understand just how important Spiritual Love is to our Spiritual lives and to our association with other believers in the assembly, in your family and in your daily contacts with other believers. The verb means to cause to come together, to be united.

This can be a very dangerous word.

Some people think this is the ultimate goal... this is the objective at all cost. You do not give up Truth; You do not give up what you believe to be the Truth of the Word of God for the sake of unity.

This is the fundamental basis of 'globalization'. Give up your Freedom, give up your Nationalism, give up your Heritage for the sake of unity of all mankind.

'Brexit' was much of Britain's view of giving up their heritage for the sake of the European Union. And so, many Americans are so willing to give up our Heritage, our Constitution, our Freedom for Globalization. And far worst in the Spiritual Warfare, many Christians are so willing to give up the Truth of Biblical teaching for Unity with the World, unity with the Muslims in 'Chrislam' .

The Word of God is very clear on what is the true basis of Christian unity. This is coming up in Colossians 3:14.

14 **Beyond all these things put on love which is the perfect bond of unity.**

But, of course, this is not referring to love of the flesh, which divides but this is Spiritual Love, that is LOVE from the Ministry of the Holy Spirit as a fruit of the Holy Spirit. To understand the all importance of Spiritual Love, we must understand how Spiritual Love is dependent on our being Filled with the Holy Spirit. So, once again, we see how vital it is to the Christian life to know how to be Filled with the Holy Spirit.

The most important question for the unbeliever is **HOW TO BE SAVED?** The most important question for the believer is HOW TO BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT? Both of these answers are found in the Word of God.

Both of these answers are the same...

by **Faith!**

For by grace you have been saved

(ETERNAL-LIFE SALVATION-[*being saved*]- delivered from the penalty of sin)

and

(in Spirituality [*being saved*]*—*[*delivered*] from the power of sin.)

Colossians 2:2

2 **that their hearts may be encouraged, having been knit together in love**

This is an AORIST PARTICIPLE and the action of the AORIST PARTICIPLE precedes the action of the main verb: **be encouraged**

and

before they can be encouraged, they have to have

received being knitted, united together in Spiritual Love.

It looks something like this:

or

Here is the formula for a local assembly of believers
making it through the attacks by Satan
against a local assembly of believers.

And please be aware this is the formula
for holding your marriage together against all the attack of
the World, the Flesh and the Devil;
How to be encouraged in your marriage.

First

being united in Spiritual Love to One Another.

Ok, we know this is true of these believers.

Colossians 1:4

4 **since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus,** they are all believers **and the love you have for all the saints** Spiritual Love poured into their hearts by the Holy Spirit.

We know this from verse 8 **and he also informed us of your love in the Spirit** this is the only loved acceptable to God; Spiritual Love from the Holy Spirit. The Filling of the Holy Spirit produces Spiritual Love.

Romans 5:5

5 **and hope, does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was graciously given to us.**

Galatians 5:22

22 **But the fruit of the Spirit is love...**

So, first they are united in Spiritual Love... **the perfect bond of unity**

Second

From the World, here comes the attacks against the local church and your marriage, your own flesh and of course the devil.

Third

You receive encouragement to continue to grow in His Word and to walk in the Holy Spirit and continue to love One Another in Spiritual Love.

Again, **WHY IS SPIRITUAL LOVE SO IMPORTANT** in the Plan of God?

This is partly covered in the **16 impacts of Spiritual Love** in the lives of those in which this love flows. On the **impact of Spiritual Love**—it counters **Mental Attitude Sins, Jealousy, Bitterness, Hatred, Worry, Guilt, etc.**

These are the Mental Attitudes that can destroy **the local church or a marriage**, and **Spiritual Love is the FORTRESS built up inside you** to combat these things that would destroy your **local church, or your marriage, or your family.**

and *attaining to* notice that *attaining* is in italics which means it is not in the original manuscript but is inserted for clarity; however, it really comes from a correct understanding of the Greek preposition *eis* which occurs over 1700 times in the New Testament with a variety of uses.

The basic idea is 'motion toward' so it should be understood here as **resulting or attaining to all the wealth.**

The deceit of wealth! It reveals a great lack in teaching of truth for believers to think of themselves as poor. When a believer declares 'I am poor' you are starting with the wrong person.

You are starting with '**me**' in this world... we must in the power of the Holy Spirit start thinking of ourselves as being '**in Christ**'.

Question, how can you be poor and be in Christ?

You can't!

What peace overcomes us when we daily see ourselves in Christ, '**the hope of Glory**'. The aggravations of comparing ourselves with those in this world. What we have and do not have!

Attaining to all the wealth And please don't speed read past that word **all**. Well, I may have wealth in Christ but I do not have 'all' wealth in this world. Once again, you reveal the absence of being correctly taught or being so occupied with yourself that you do not consider who you are in Christ.

Where does this thinking come from?

and attaining to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding

Observation: Which comes first...

attaining all wealth

or

having **full assurance of understanding**?

You are right!

First you have to have **full assurance of understanding**.

It is the assurance of understanding that causes you to realize your wealth in Christ.

full assurance. This comes from a compound Greek word found only in the New Testament. The compound word is made up of a word meaning 'full' plus a word meaning to bear or to carry—**to carry fullness.**

It means full assurance or complete confidence, certainty.

And what carries full assurance?

What carries complete confidence?

What carries certainty?

The Word of God!

Because God is completely faithful!

We can have full assurance

in anything and everything

that God says.

Confidence in life comes from the Word of God in our souls.

We saw this word in 1 Thessalonians 1:5

5 **For our gospel did not come to you in word only but also in power even in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction/full assurance** The gospel is our full conviction and confidence of Eternal Life with God and JESUS CHRIST.

Hebrews 6:11

11 **and we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end or full assurance of confidence until the end.**

Colossians 2:2

2 **that their hearts may be encouraged having been knit or united together in Spiritual Love resulting in all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding** genitive of source.
The source of all this is the often-overlooked ***understanding***.

The Greek word means to comprehend. To have correct understanding. **“The word denotes the ability to understand concepts and see relationships between them.”**

Ok, you might remember a few weeks ago we studied wisdom in Colossians 1:28. We looked at some important passages in the Old Testament. But we did not emphasize one part in that study of wisdom.

Job 28:12

12 **But where can wisdom be found? And where is the place of understanding?**

And then in verse 28

28 **“Behold the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.”**

Where the Hebrew word is almost identical in meaning to the Greek word: comprehension, or discernment. The Hebrew word, however, adds strong righteous connotations. Let us see how this works.

to depart from evil is understanding

1st First this demands that you know what evil is.

2nd You know what Righteousness is.

3rd In understanding, you depart from evil to Righteousness.

Understanding means that you are able to see relationships between evil and righteousness and that if you do not turn away from evil will result in sin, which results in being alienated from God and under His wrath.

It is amazing how many people, including pastors do not have **understanding**. This is why they fall for and teach false doctrines and erroneous teachings. This is what Paul is encountering in these churches.

Yes, you have to know doctrine. You have to learn the Word of God, but Knowledge alone puffs up or makes one arrogant.

You must have understanding.

And understanding is a fruit of the Holy Spirit;

A gift of the Holy Spirit.

There is an important passage in Proverbs except for what is absent.

Proverbs 4:5

5 **Acquire wisdom!**

But it does not tell you how to acquire wisdom, so people go off on their own ideals which do not lead to the acquisition of wisdom from God.

Then verse 5 goes on **Acquire understanding!** great—how?

Well, we have somewhat of a clue in the next line:

Do not forget or turn away from the words of my mouth
that is, from my teaching.

6 **Do not forsake her** that is, do not forsake WISDOM, do not forsake MY TEACHING **and she WISDOM will guard you; love her and she will watch over you.**

Here is understanding: what is said here is another way of saying what Paul says in Colossians 2:2.

Colossians 2:2

2 that their hearts may be encouraged having been knit or united together in Spiritual Love resulting in all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding.

resulting in a true knowledge of God's mystery, *that is, Christ Himself,*

See the phrase

resulting in a true Knowledge of God's mystery...

well, the insertion of the word in italics

resulting is the same preposition we translated **resulting in all the wealth.**

And so... it is again to be understood as ***resulting in a true knowledge.***

What does this suppose?

There is a **false knowledge** and I am sorry to say but that is what a lot of people have in the world today; and when I say people, I am including Christians.

The Greek word for Knowledge refers to a specific kind of Knowledge. It refers to a Knowledge that that “very powerfully influences” one’s Christian life. Many people have some Knowledge of God, of JESUS CHRIST, but that Knowledge does not really influence how they live.

Having this Knowledge will directly influence how you live, decisions you make, big decisions... everyday decisions.

The Decision of where you will attend Church.

The Decision of whom you will marry.

The Decisions of use of time and money.

Resulting in ‘influential’ knowledge of The God’s mystery

We have seen in chapter 1 **THREE THINGS ABOUT THIS MYSTERY:**

1st

This mystery has been hidden from the entire period of the Old Testament, from Adam and Eve to JESUS CHRIST’s Ascension.

2nd

God has made the decision to manifested now in the Church Age to believers who really desire to know it.

3rd

This mystery is Christ in you the hope the confidence of Glory.

Resulting in 'influential' knowledge of The God's mystery *that is* Christ Himself.

Colossians 2:1

1

For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for your spiritual benefit and for those who are at Laodicea, and for all those (believers) who have not personally seen my face—sat under face to face teaching.

That: Their hearts may be encouraged

having been knit together (in unity)

in Spiritual love

resulting in attaining all the wealth that comes from the full

assurance of understanding

resulting in 'influential' knowledge

of the mystery of the God, Christ Himself.

SPIRITUAL LOVE results in attaining all wealth that comes from **full assurance of UNDERSTANDING**; and results in a knowledge that influences how we live according to the mystery of God, that is “00”.

It all starts with *Spiritual Love*

and

Ends in the **GLORY OF CHRIST MANIFESTED IN YOU.**

John 3: 16 “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.