

## Colossians 2:1-8 – In Christ.

### I. (1-3) The great conflict...

It wasn't that Paul fought with others about the Colossian Christians. Paul described his spiritual warfare and heartfelt care for the Colossians and Laodiceans (**Revelation 3:14-17**) as a **great conflict**.

"For wolves to worry the lambs is no wonder, but for one lamb to worry another, this is unnatural and monstrous..."

Many Christians had never seen Paul, though he spiritually fought for them. Even as Paul's authority extended to those he had never met – so it also extends to us.

**Encourage:** "...is the idea of enabling a person to meet some difficult situation with confidence and gallantry." (Barclay)

**Judges 20:22** - *And the people, that is, the men of Israel, **encouraged** themselves and again formed the battle line at the place where they had put themselves in array on the first day.*

**Luke 22:31** - *And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. "But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren."*

**1Thessalonians 3:1-3** - *Therefore, when we could no longer endure it, we thought it good to be left in Athens alone, and sent Timothy, our brother and minister of God, and our fellow laborer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you and encourage you concerning your faith, that no one should be shaken by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we are appointed to this.*

**Knit in love;** unity flows from our love for God, thus for each other...

**John 13:35** - *"By this all will know that you are **My disciples**, if you have love for one another."*

**Hebrews 10:24** - *And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,*

**Understand:** the riches/treasures of their knowledge and wisdom in Christ.

**Psalms 119:162** - *I rejoice at Your word as one who finds great treasure.*

**Proverbs 9:10** - *"**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.**"*

**Isaiah 33:6** - *Wisdom and knowledge will be **the stability of your times**, and **the strength of salvation**; **the fear of the LORD** is His treasure.*

**John 6:68** - *But Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.*

Great freedom and confidence comes when we acquire His knowledge and wisdom.

II. (4-8) Beware of cheats...philosophers, imperialists and legalists...

There are those who use persuasive words with intention to deceive many...

**Matthew 24:11**- *“Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.*

**Act 20:29-30** - *“For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. “Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.*

This is a wonderful rule for Christian living. We cannot perfect in the flesh what was begun in the Spirit; therefore just as you **received** Jesus, **walk in Him** in the same way. The simple things of the Christian life provide continual and reliable spiritual fuel for growth. We always have to be reminded of the **things we have been taught**.

**So walk in Him** – (forward progress), **rooted** (firm and immovable) and **built up** (complete): be established and keep growing.

“...They are to be *rooted*; as the good *seed* had been already *sown*, it is to take root, and the roots are to spread far, wide, and deep. They are to be *grounded*; as the *foundation* has already been *laid*, they are to *build* thereon.” (Clarke)

**Luke 6:47-48** - *“Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: “He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock*

**1 Peter 2:4-5** - *Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*