

"An Empowered Family"

Colossians 2:1-5

Dr. Jim Cecy

Introduction:

Becoming a courageous family and church family that goes where others refuse to go and does what others refuse to do.
"Lord, rescue us from the trivial."

Colossians 2:1-5 "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, 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, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. I say this so that no one may delude you with persuasive argument. For even though I am absent in body, nevertheless I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good discipline and the stability of your faith in Christ."

"For..." — points us back to Chapter 1

Review of Colossians 1:28-29

"We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ. For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me."
(Colossians 1:28-29)

Our Family Shepherding Goals

- Goal #1 To see every family member serving as an effective disciple and minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Goal #2 To see every family member using his/her talents to proclaim Christ to a needy world.
- Goal #3 To see every family member fully mature in Christ.
- Goal #4 To see every family member engaged in agonizing but joy-filled labor for Christ.

Now in Colossians 2:1-5

I. Our Constant Struggle (Colossians 2:1)

Colossians 2:1 "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..."

struggle = Greek: agon = agony

- Equipping people to be strong in the Lord is hard work!
- Shepherding people to maturity can seem like a fight to the death!

cf. 2 Corinthians 11:23-27 regarding Paul's many struggles in ministry

2 Corinthians 11:28 "Apart from such external things, there is the daily pressure upon me of concern for all the churches."

Acts 14:22 "...strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying, 'Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.'"

II. Our Common Priorities (Colossians 2:2-5)

Priority #1 The people we disciple need to be strengthened in their hearts.

Enemy #1: The Flesh — the inward bent to sin that is the epidemic in every human heart.

Enemy #2: The World — the world's value system that tries to get us to compromise who we are as followers of Christ.

Enemy #3: The Devil — the enemy of our souls.

"...that their hearts may be encouraged..." (Colossians 2:2)

encourage = Greek: parakaleo = called to come along side

"The righteous are as bold as a lion." (Proverbs 28:1)

"The people who know their God will display strength and take action." (Daniel 11:32)

Priority #2 The people we disciple need to know that they are joined together in love.

Colossians 2:2 "...having been knit together in love..."

"knit together" = Greek: *sumbibadzo* = joined/weaved/knit together

"The chord of three strands is not easily torn apart." (Ecclesiastes 4:12)

We must be a people who are one in the bond of love and serving together in the perfect bond of unity (cf. 3:14)

"We are all one in Christ" (Galatians 3:28)

Priority #3 The people we disciple need to be secure in their understanding of their wealth in Christ.

Colossians 2:2-3 "...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, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."

We are a spiritually wealthy and incredibly blessed people...(cf. Ephesians 1; Colossians 3)

The problem: Living like paupers even though we are the spiritually wealthy children of the King

Priority #4 The people we disciple need to be taught to stand against the lies.

Colossians 2:4 "I say this in order that no one may delude you with persuasive argument."

Jesus Himself promised that in latter days false Messiahs would arise.

Priority #5 The people we disciple must learn to be steadfast in their faith.

Colossians 2:5 "For even though I am absent in body, nevertheless I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good discipline and the stability of your faith in Christ."

"I am with you in spirit..."

"I am...rejoicing to see your good discipline..."

"good discipline" = Greek: *taxin* = orderliness and discipline

Ready to learn — Ready for battle

"I am...rejoicing to see...the stability of your faith in Christ."

stability = Greek: *stereoma* = standing firm

Concluding Challenge:

"Lord, rescue us from the trivial."

"Lord, make us an empowered family."