

Colossians 1:24-2:7

All Knowledge and Wisdom Found in Christ

Section 1: 1:24-29 – Strive for Christ in the Power of the Holy Spirit

Striving for Christ should be the desire of all believers. The word “striving” is an athletic term. It would have been used of runners striving for the finish line.

In our efforts to strive for Christ’s glory we will face hardships. Paul references his own sufferings in verse 24. At this time Paul is writing to the church of Colossae from prison and we can read from 2 Corinthians 11:23-28 about the other various ways Paul suffered for the cause of Christ:

²³Are they servants of Christ? I’m talking like a madman—I’m a better one: with far more labors, many more imprisonments, far worse beatings, many times near death. ²⁴Five times I received the forty lashes minus one from the Jews. ²⁵Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I received a stoning. Three times I was shipwrecked. I have spent a night and a day in the open sea. ²⁶On frequent journeys, I faced dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my own people, dangers from Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers at sea, and dangers among false brothers; ²⁷toil and hardship, many sleepless nights, hunger and thirst, often without food, cold, and without clothing. ²⁸Not to mention other things, there is the daily pressure on me: my concern for all the churches. (CSB)

Christ doesn’t remove the believer from suffering...He walks the believer through suffering.

2 Corinthians 4:7-18 - John 16:33 - James 1:2-4

Those who lose their joy in serving Christ do so because they have lost a connection to the Father not because of their circumstances.

Paul was joyfully suffering to fulfill the commission of Christ given to him. Paul was commissioned to make the Word of God fully known to the church. Paul was striving that people may fully know Jesus. The gospel was his message, the gospel was his hope and the gospel was his treasure.

Paul explains in verse 29 that his ability to strive for the gospel in the mist of suffering was the power of the Holy Spirit. We are given the Holy Spirit to empower us to faithfully follow Jesus so that we can live a life pleasing to the Father. Why is the power of the Holy Spirit necessary for a believer? 2 Timothy 3:12 and 1 Peter 4:12-19 remind us why.

Strive to serve Christ by submitting to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. As you follow the Holy Spirit...He will empower you to accomplish all that you are called to do.

Discussion Questions

- ❖ Are you striving to live a life for God’s glory?
- ❖ What distracts, holds us back or takes our focus off of striving for Christ?
 - How can we battle those distractions and obstacles?
- ❖ Why is it important to rely upon the Holy Spirit rather than our own wisdom and strength?

Section 2: 2:1-3 – In Christ is ALL Wisdom and Knowledge

Paul desperately wants the believers in Colossae to have all the riches of complete understanding and to have the knowledge of God's mystery. Which is Christ. Jesus is ALL understanding and knowledge. In Christ alone we find knowledge necessary for salvation and sanctification. From Genesis to Revelation the Word of God is revealing to us that Jesus is ALL. Romans 11:36 (CSB): *For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever. Amen.* He is ALL we need, He is ALL we should desire, He is ALL our hope, His is ALL of the gospel (Hebrews 1:1-4).

In Christ you will find ALL treasures of wisdom and knowledge. The world has no theory, idea or plan that can make a person whole. Only Jesus.

Discussion Questions

- ❖ Why is Jesus sufficient for all of life?
- ❖ What does it practically look like to trust that Jesus is sufficient for all things?

Section 3: 2:4-7 – Be Rooted and Built up in Christ

Why is it important to understand that ALL wisdom and knowledge is found in Christ? Because the world, the culture or a people can come along with arguments that "sound" reasonable, but ultimately, they are meaningless and empty.

We must be building our faith in Christ. The "in Christ" is key to building our faith. We don't read the Bible to have a better life...we read the Bible to know and enjoy Christ. As your knowledge and love for Christ grows...your actions and attitudes will follow. It doesn't work the other way around. You can't build a knowledge and love for Christ on good works. Your relationship with Christ comes first...then comes the lifestyle. Verse 6 and 7 explain this process.

First, "*just as you have received Christ Jesus as Lord*"...we must be saved. Our salvation (justification) is a work of God. It is a gift that we receive. The verb tense in this phrase conveys an action that happens to us. We must be saved by God Himself. We cannot earn it any aspect of the gospel. Ephesians 2:8-9.

Second, "*walk in Him*"...we must seek Christ. Our spiritual walk (sanctification) is something that should always be growing. The phrase "being built up in Him" is conveying the idea that we daily seek to live for God. It is a daily ongoing process. 1 John 2:3-6.

Third, "*established in the faith*"...our faith is secured by God. Our faith (glorification) is fully established for all eternity. The phrase "established in the faith" conveys something that happens to us. Our faith enduring into eternity is a gift given to us by God. John 10:27-30.

The reality that we can experience justification, sanctification and glorification...should cause us to overflow with gratitude. Christians should be the most joyful, thankful and gracious people despite our circumstances. If you are not...it is time to repent.

Discussion Questions

- ❖ Justification: why is it important to remember that God alone is the author of our salvation?
- ❖ Sanctification: why should we seek to walk with Christ daily?
- ❖ Glorification: why is it important to remember that God alone is the finisher of our salvation?