

## No more Chains Pt 2

### Colossians 2:1-7

- In **Chapter 1** Paul discusses the **truth about Christ**, and in **Chapter 2** he will expose the **errors** about **cults - false teaching**, and although it is a necessary and needed function of the church it is also tiring and very exhausting, as it pulls on not just your spiritual well being but also drains you both emotionally and physically, as we'll see as Paul describes this type of spiritual warfare.

#### V1-7

- **V1-3** Paul begins by describing the difficulty he's having in not being able to see them face to face, many of us enjoy communicating via email, text, social media, rather than in person. I get it its faster and saves more time, but all of us can agree that sometimes you can be misinterpreted or misinterpret an exchange because words on a screen don't show a person's facial expression as their attempting to get an important point across, or when something is a joke and not really that serious but that's not how it came across in the email, I think we've all been there.
- In chapter 1 we read how Paul and his companions pray regularly for the church at Colossae, and yet he is still having an internal conflict as to what is happening there. The Greek word he uses for "**conflict**" is agon, where we get our English word "agony" from, again Paul has never been to the churches of Colossae or Laodicea, but that didn't stop him from agonizing in prayer to God on their behalf, this goes back to what he said in **1:29** how he labored and strived in accordance to what was needed to see the body of Christ be fed, nourished and grow.
- **V2** gives an example of the effort, labor, work, whether in prayer or in person to see people's > **1. Hearts encouraged**- comes from a personal relationship, **2. Lives tied together in love**- A people relationship, **3. To possess full assurance through understanding**- Power relationship. Paul wanted these churches lives to display joy in their hearts, which is personal, and to have loving fellowship with one another according to > **Jn 13:35**, and to know what they believe and why they believed it, which brings blessed assurance spoken of in > **1Jn 5:13**.
- **V3** ties back in to the end of **verse 2** where the church was urged to seek all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge but in Jesus. The world encourages people to go all out for treasure, for worldly wisdom and knowledge, but it leaves out Christ, Paul is saying we can only find true treasure, right wisdom, and beneficial knowledge in Jesus, if it leads down any other path its destructive folks plain and simple, and that is the world we live in today, the one that will cheer you and your children to fill up on information, and ideas, as long as they don't include Jesus.
- **V4** Paul gives out a stern warning about listening to and being impressed by people who have the gift of gab, they know how to speak in such a way that it grabs your attention, maybe it's through clever arguments or eloquence of speech in how they pronounce the words, whatever it is that is grabbing a hold of you Paul says make sure it's because of truth and not presentation.

- **Jn 8:44** gives us some detail as to how Satan is so effective as he uses lies, for people have a penchant of believing lies before we accept the truth, that's why lies spread faster than truth. Because truth deals in fact it doesn't need clever arguments or eloquence to prove itself, which is why it's not that attractive to us, which is why many churches come up with gimmicks in the message or tricks to get people to come to church, rather than relying on good old biblical truth.
- **V5** Paul is now going to give out some instructions for protecting ourselves from becoming a victim to deception and lies. He starts out by saying even though he's not physically with them he is still spiritually connected by the Spirit, and because of his connection through the Spirit he can rejoice because he expects to either **hear** (if he doesn't get to see them) or **see**, once he does visit them, their "**good order**" and "**steadfastness**", These are both military terms.
- They describe an army that is solidly united against the enemy, as "order" describes the arrangement of the army in ranks with each soldier in his proper place, "steadfastness" are the soldiers in battle formation moving forward against the enemy, and never giving ground to him. These picture both discipline and obedience, which for the Christian if were lacking either one then they'll be very little spiritual growth in us and very little progress by us in taking the enemies territory, but instead he will be moving on us causing us to back up and begin to concede the very things that God has giving to us like > our peace, our joy, our families.
- **V6-7** when you find yourself doubting or questioning are you following the right path, did God really call you, remember **V6**, for it's a wonderful principle for Christian living. You accepted Jesus into your heart, you want to live for Him, glorify Him, then "**walk in Him**". In other words don't try and perfect in the flesh what was begun in the Spirit, stop trying to be the Christian and just be a Christian, this is who you are > His Word, it's true, follow it, Jesus is God, someone who says there a Christian or not, says that's not true ignore them, you have a bible, read it.
- No baby ever comes out the womb walking, they must first learn to turn over, crawl, stand up and then take steps and begin to walk, but not without assistance. Same thing for the new believer you need help let older believers come alongside and encourage you by cheering you on that you will get past this rough patch, or difficulty, just continue on in the faith. **V7** once we begin to walk then we become rooted and built up which is speaking of having a firm foundation
- '**Rooted**' is an agriculture word, it's when the plant begins to plant roots within the soil from which it draws its strength and stability. As believers we are never to be like tumbleweeds that have no stability and when a stiff wind blows it's carried about by the breeze to try and latch on there. We have been planted in Christ soil; we need to root ourselves in God's Word, memorize His promises, and immerse ourselves in service and fellowship with His people. "**Built up**" is an architecture term that's linked to "**establish**", as we get rooted we find our place within the body, like when an architect draws up the plans for a building he knows where everything goes.