

Scripture:

Colossians 2:1-5

For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face, that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments. For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ.

Notes:

Paul's Heart for the Church

- Willing to carry the burden
- Willing to fight the spiritual battle
- He passed his passion to Epaphras

Paul's Prayer for the Church

- Encouraged hearts
- Together in love
- Really know Christ
- Really treasure Christ

Colossians 2:19, and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.

Ephesians 4:15–16, Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Paul's Concern for the Church

- Don't get deluded
- Plausible Arguments

Paul's Praise for the Church

- Good order (military terms)
- Firmness in faith (military term)
- Spiritual warfare is to be practiced individually AND corporately

THIS WEEK...

- Commit — pursue experiencing Christ and living in a growing relationship with Him.
- Expand Your Prayer — don't limit your prayer to the people you know and the things you see.
- Come Along Side — who can you encourage today?
- Get in the Fight — how are you struggling for or contending for others?