MESSAGE OUTLINE



COLOSSIANS 2:1-10 NKJV

1 For I want you to know what a great conflict I have for you and those in Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh, 2 that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. 4 Now this I say lest anyone should deceive you with persuasive words. 5 For though I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ. 6 As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, 7 rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. 8 Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. 9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; 10 and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

INTRODUCTION

Paul has one thing in mind for this church: he is concerned about their survival. His desire is to disciple them into mature Christians. This too, is how we can survive as a church.

Paul mentions the Laodiceans, and he wrote them a letter. Do we have this letter today? No. Jesus says he wanted to spit them out because of their apathy. Let's keep them in mind.

PRAYER WORKS FOR ANYWHERE

Paul in v.1 says he is in a great conflict for them. Paul is saying that he has been going to battle for them.

This is a good reminder that prayer is effective for anywhere, for any location, and for any distance. "Prayer Works For Anywhere."

Jesus is above all things, and He is the one who hears our prayers. Praying to Jesus should give us full assurance that whatever we ask can be accomplished. BECAUSE OF WHO YOU ARE PRAYING TO.

Hebrews 4:14-16

14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Thousands of miles away, for large groups of people—prayer works. It is not a waste of time.

And prayer for a person you don't know, thousands of miles away, is also effective! Do not give up. Go to battle in prayer!

But you need to know who you are praying to. Do you know who you are praying to?

MAINTAINING SURVIVAL
Paul has a major concern: he wants them to be prepared with the right wisdom and knowledge.

He taught one big powerful plan—a simple strategy to the Colossians.

The strategy was simple—**To know who Christ is.**

Go read something and study. Go home. This is the problem. Now, what was Paul's effective strategy?

Get out there, unite in love and unite in the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. **Ephesians 4:4-6**

Christ is not a book. He is a person! He was not a historical person. He IS a living person.
He is the perfect person. And He is the perfect example to live by.

The way to know Jesus, is this – **to live the story of His life.** Not just read it.

But that is hard to be motivated to do.. Right?

Look around you, 300 hours is all the time you have with most of the people in this room.

Application: Be ready to love the people around you, before time runs out. Are you doing that?

How? Look at the way Christ has loved you, and then, love Him back. His body, the church.

It will grow exponentially! One day, you will be loved back by the body of Christ you first loved.

The Church in Laodicea. What happened?? **They stopped doing that. They did not survive.**

Ephesians 4:1b-2, "*walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love.*"

DECEPTION PREVENTION
Paul says this because he wants to prevent the church from being deceived by philosophy.

But in reality, no one really knows what it is. Paul is very vague about it. But that is precisely the point.

We don't need to "know thy enemy and to know thyself" (Sun Tzu)

Being occupied with trying to figure out the non-essentials, you miss the big picture. You get emptiness and deceit instead of doing the right kind of research and philosophy.

What's the right kind of research??

The word *philosophy* comes from the combination of two words: **love—wisdom.**

Proverbs 3:13 ESV *Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding.*

Proverbs 8:11 *For wisdom is better than rubies, And all the things one may desire cannot be compared with her.*

Now the desire for wisdom has been the apple of man's eye since the beginning of time.

After Eve took a bite of the forbidden fruit to made her "wise," what was the next "wise thing" she did?

She gave Adam a piece of fruit as well. That "wisdom" was sin number two.

Eve, who had been basically commanded: 1. Do not to eat the fruit of the tree of knowledge and 2. Help her husband. Fail.

What should she have done? NOT **love to become wise**, rather **wise to love.**

Walk In Him
You see we are all in danger of this very thing that Eve did!

Jesus says, in **John 5:39-40, 42** *"You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life." "But I know you, that you do not have the love of God in you."*

The Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. **1 John 4:14-16**

So Eve, instead of searching for Godly wisdom, she then effectively killed her husband when she should have loved her husband and been **concerned about him**.

She did not care, because she did not have love. Fallen outside of fellowship with God. Wrong tree/fruit.

Philippians 2:3-5 *Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus!*

This is how we WALK IN HIM and BE, AND THINK, LIKE HIM!

If we want to be a church that lasts, then we must become a culture that is looking out not only for their own interests, BUT ALSO FOR THE INTERESTS OF OTHERS.

When others are in need, go to the *right* source—the right tree for the right fruit.

Revelation 22:1 *And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb.*

Go to the Throne, and ask in the NAME OF JESUS. JESUS IS LORD and HE IS GOD.

The source now lives in us! We *always* have access to the Throne of Grace.

You have power in helping others—by going to the throne on their behalf. For their needs.

Anywhere and for anyone, while you still live. The river of God flows out of you!

He who believes in Me, *'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'"* **John 7:38**

INVITATION
Do you know him? Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. Doing that will make you "wise to love." And that gives you eternal life. You will survive.

Jesse Mark Cesario
Tokyo Baptist Church
July 27-28, 2024

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