

Sunday, October 4, 2020—Colossians 2:4-7 Our Walk in Christ

Colossians 2:4

- **And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words.**
- **And this I say**—in the context he is talking about what he just said in verses 1-3 about “the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ” as well as the fact that “all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” are hidden in Christ. Why does Paul want the Colossians to know these things?
- **lest any man should beguile you with enticing words**—Paul doesn’t want them to be “beguiled” through the use of “enticing words.”
- The English verb “beguile” carries the following meanings according to Noah Webster’s *American Dictionary of the English Language*.
 - To delude; to deceive; to impose on by artifice [trick or fraud] or craft.
 - Genesis 3:3
 - I Corinthians 3:19—“craftiness”
 - Ephesians 4:4—“craftiness”
 - James 1:22
- Colossians 2:4—Paul does not want them to be “beguiled” i.e., tricked, or deceived by “enticing words.” The Greek word rendered “enticing words” occurs only one time in the Greek text supporting the King James Bible. According to *Strong’s Concordance* it can have either a positive or negative meaning:
 - speech adapted to persuade, discourse in which probable arguments are adduced
 - in a bad sense, persuasiveness of speech, specious discourse leading others into error
- Meanwhile, Noah Webster defines the word as, “inciting to evil; urging to sin by motives, flattery or persuasion; alluring. 1. Having the qualities that entice or allure.”
- So, “enticing words” are words that are intended to persuade in a bad sense in that they are designed to lead someone into doctrinal error.
 - I Corinthians 2:4-5—Paul didn’t use “enticing words” of man’s wisdom when he preached the gospel.

- Colossians 2:4—Paul’s emotion conflict for them in verse 1 is related to them not being enticed away from the truth in verse 4.
 - Acts 20:28-31

Colossians 2:5

- **For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.**
- **For though I be absent in the flesh**—contextually this statement takes us back to verse 1. Again, Paul’s warning about “enticing words” in verse 4 is related to the fact that was absent from them and not with them in the flesh.
- **yet am I with you in the spirit**—event though Paul was not with them physically he was with them in spirit. According to our Apostle Paul, statements such as these are not empty platitudes but spiritual reality. Paul was with them in his thoughts and in his prayers. Believers can be with each other in “spirit” even though they are physically parted from each other.
 - Colossians 1:3-9

Colossians 2:6

- **As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:**
- Paul encourages the Colossians to “walk” in Christ in the same manner in which they received him i.e., by grace through faith.
 - Ephesians 2:8-9
 - II Corinthians 5:7—we are to walk by faith in God’s word.
 - Ephesians 4:1-4
 - Ephesians 5:2

Colossians 2:7

- **Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.**

- **Rooted and built up in him**—is the first characteristic of our walk in this passage. If something is “rooted” it has its “roots planted or fixed in the earth.” Therefore, its rendered firm, fixed, established, and thoroughly grounded.
 - Ephesians 3:17
 - Acts 27:41
 - I Corinthians 15:58
 - Psalms 1:2-3
- Colossians 2:7—we are to be “rooted and built up” in Christ. Why because “in Christ are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” The more we know Christ the stronger and more stable we will be in walk with the Lord.
- **and stablished in the faith**—being “rooted and built up” in Christ leads to a faith that is settled, firm, or fixed. So, when the winds of doctrine blow, we aren’t tossed to and fro with every wind of doctrine.
 - Romans 16:25
 - II Thessalonians 2:17
- **as ye have been taught**—Paul wanted them to stay with what they had been taught because it had the capacity to root them, build them up, and stablish them in the faith. As opposed to being “beguiled” with “enticing words” in verse 4.
- **abounding therein with thanksgiving**—we are to be “abounding” in the truth of what we have been taught with “thanksgiving.”
 - Colossians 3:17
 - Ephesians 5:20
 - I Thessalonians 5:18
- Back in 2013 I preached a series of sermons titled A Heart of Thanksgiving in which we discussed in detail how essential thanksgiving is to your Christian life and walk. When we can’t be anything else, we can be thankful for all that God has done for us through Christ.