

**Colossians - Chapter 2**  
**“How to Reach Spiritual Maturity”**  
**Colossians 2:1-2**

**Introduction:**

1. The apostle Paul's heart was very heavy for the believers in Colosse and Laodicea, because he knew that there were false teachers that were desperately trying to lead these believers away from the sound doctrine that Christ had revealed to him.
2. In this chapter, Paul will deal with five errors that were being propagated by these false teachers. Paul will refute them with the truth of God.
  - Enticing words - vs. 4-7
  - Philosophy - vs. 8-13
  - Legalism - vs. 14-17
  - Mysticism - vs. 18-19
  - Asceticism - vs. 20-23
3. Paul lays out the sound doctrine about Christ and the mystery in Chapter 1. He then shows how that sound doctrine refutes false doctrine, in Chapter 2. Paul then demonstrates what sound doctrine should look like in our daily lives in Chapters 3 and 4.
4. The key verse to this chapter, and really the key verse to the book, is verse 10. We are complete in Christ!

**Verse 1**

1. The word “*conflict*” is the Greek word from which we get our English word “agony.” Have you ever been so concerned about somebody that you agonized in your spirit, and, hopefully, you agonized in prayer for him?
2. Remember, Paul is in prison, and has lost the ability to travel and see people in person. He has been made a minister, and been given a deposit of truth from Christ that was kept secret from the beginning of time.
3. Paul had gone on many missionary journeys, and established believers in the truth of the mystery. When false doctrine would creep into these churches, Paul would travel back to these churches and straighten out false doctrine.  
1 Corinthians 4:18-21
4. As time went by, and as Paul's converts and churches began to reach new people, there were many churches established that had never seen Paul one time. Paul had a real burden in his heart for these people.
5. I'm sure that Paul longed to go and teach these new converts, especially when he received word of false teachers trying to prey on these believers.
6. But Paul could do two things:
  - He could turn to his pen and paper and write to these people.
  - He could pray earnestly for these people.

7. This verse demonstrates how personal all of this was to Paul. He truly agonized in his spirit over people and over his desire to get the truth of the mystery out to others.
8. The ministry was not a job to Paul. It was not a sideline activity that he approached in a casual manner. He was passionate about it. Nor was Paul like a CEO who was building a multi-million dollar Christian empire.
9. Paul was a humble servant who was passionate about teaching the divine revelation he had received from Christ. Paul wasn't about marketing; he was about ministry!

## Verse 2

1. Verse 2 gives us great insight into Paul's heart and passion for local churches. He had never seen these people, but this verse reveals how Paul prayed for them and what his deepest desires were for them.
2. His first desire was that *"their hearts might be comforted."*
  - These Colossians had been hit with every conceivable form of false doctrine, designed to lead them away from the sufficiency of Christ.
  - Can you imagine the confusion and turmoil in their midst? Their hearts must have been full of anxiety and stress. The church must have been like the ship in Matthew 8:24.
  - Paul's desire was that a peace and calmness would characterize their hearts, like that of Matthew 8:26. How could this happen?
3. Paul said, *"...being knit together in love..."*
  - False doctrine divides, sound doctrine unites. There were so many false religious teachings that infiltrated this church and had brought division.
  - I'm sure it produced bickering, fighting, and contention within the church, just like at Corinth. 1 Corinthians 1:10-11
  - Illustration: Imagine a baseball team with ten head coaches, and each one has a completely different idea of what makes a complete baseball player.
  - Paul wanted so much for these people to be knit together (united) in love. The phrase *"knit together"* is translated *"compacted"* in Ephesians 2:16.
  - When people begin to attempt to live their Christian life by anything other than the life and power of Jesus Christ, there is no way that they will be *"knit together in love"* (vs. 19). Christ is the unifying force that compacts us all together.
  - The key to unity and love is spiritual maturity, which brings us to the next phrase.
4. *"... unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding..."*
  - This is speaking of spiritual maturity. The phrase *"full assurance"* carries the idea of a "sure confidence."
  - The word *"understanding"* literally means "to place together."
  - When a people truly begin to rightly divide God's Word, and start to put all the pieces of God's Word together in light of Paul's revelation, they become established in the truth.

- They are no longer driven about with every wind of doctrine (Ephesians 4:14).
  - If Christians believe one thing today, and then tomorrow they hear something on TV that sounds good, then the next day they hear something else and believe that - those people will have no assurance. They will live in a state of confusion.
  - Paul prayed that these believers would gain a spiritual understanding and be brought to maturity.
  - What is the key to spiritual maturity? Let's look at the next phrase.
5. *“...to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ.”*
- This is the mystery we discussed in 1:26. This is dealing with the special revelation that Christ made known to Paul about this time of grace, the setting aside of Israel's prophetic program, and the forming of a new organism called the body of Christ.
  - Do you remember what we said about the importance of this? Let me quote,
    - “A failure to understand the difference between prophecy and the mystery is the mother of most false teaching and false doctrine today. When believers today attempt to live by doctrine in the prophetic program of Israel, confusion is the result.”
  - An understanding of the mystery is absolutely crucial to getting established in sound doctrine and gaining a spiritual understanding.
  - So many believers stay in a state of spiritual immaturity. They have never applied themselves to understanding God's Word, or the mystery revealed through Paul. When something comes along that sounds good doctrinally, they bite on it like a fish at a worm. As a result, they lack grounding, so when the trials of life come their way, they are tossed to and fro.