

FEBRUARY 23, 2020

 THE STRUGGLE IS REAL
 Colossians 2

VERSE(S)	KEY PHRASES	REFLECTIONS
v. 1	<i>"For I want you to know how much I am struggling for you..."</i>	
vv. 2-5	<i>"...and have knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ himself, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. I am saying this so that no one may deceive you with plausible arguments."</i>	
vv. 6-7	<i>"As you therefore have received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him..."</i>	
vv. 8-15	<i>"For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority...God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it."</i>	
vv. 16-23	<i>"Therefore, do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food and drink or observance of festivals, new moons, or sabbaths...Do not anyone disqualify you..."</i>	

The struggle is real because...

1. Christ ____ the mystery. Heb. 1:1-4; Eph. 1:3-14; John 1; 1 John 1:1-4;
2. We carry deep spiritual _____. 2 Cor. 11; Mark 10:35-45; John 21:20-23
3. We negatively _____ to one another's issues. Gal. 3; James 3:9-12; Acts 17:10-17
4. Christ Jesus the Lord desires to _____ for the sake of this life. Phil. 1:21-27; 1 Tim. 6:11-19; 1 Thess. 2; 1 Pet. 1:8-9

Talking through the message during the week can really help clarify the things that God is teaching you and let others learn from your experiences. Get with someone this week and talk about your answers to the following questions:

What thought stood out most in the message to you?

Go back and read Col. 2:1-7. Based off of what Paul writes, what do you imagine are some of his deep concerns for the Christ followers in Colossae and Laodicea?

Read Col. 2:3 and 1:27. What thoughts come to mind when you hear that Christ is God's mystery? What is remarkable about reading that in him "are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge"? What is significant about Col. 2:3 following 1:27?

It was shared that the Christians were potentially feeling insecure (in Paul's words: at risk of being "deceived" or made to feel "disqualified") about their standing with Christ based on gnostic influences and Jewish customs and traditions. In our context, how can you relate to feeling "spiritually insecure"?

How do we potentially contribute to the insecurities of brothers and sisters in the family of faith? Is there a way for us to be more intentional about not doing this to others?

Read Col. 2:23 and notice Paul's concern about "checking self-indulgence" rather than simply putting on a religious front. What's convicting to you in that verse?

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The struggle is real because...

1. Christ IS the mystery. Heb. 1:1-4; Eph. 1:3-14; John 1; 1 John 1:1-4;
2. We carry deep spiritual INSECURITIES. 2 Cor. 11; Mark 10:35-45; John 21:20-23
3. We negatively CONTRIBUTE to one another's issues. Gal. 3; James 3:9-12; Acts 17:10-17
4. Christ Jesus the Lord desires to GROW US for the sake of this life. Phil. 1:21-27; 1 Tim. 6:11-19; 1 Thess. 2; 1 Pet. 1:8-9

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