

Colossians 2:1–3

“Three Benefits of Treasuring Christ”

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What are some of the benefits of the apostle’s having come to know God as Triune in Christ?

Pastor leads his family in today’s “Hopewell @Home” passage. Colossians 2:1–3 prepares us for the second serial reading in Morning Public Worship on the coming Lord’s Day. In these three verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us treasuring Christ frees us to care despite the pain that comes with it, treasuring Christ knits our hearts together in love for Christ, and treasuring Christ forms the foundation of all true wisdom or knowledge.

Thursday, October 28, 2021 ▫ Read Colossians 2:1–3

Questions from the Scripture text: What does the apostle want them to do (v1)? Of what does he want them to know the greatness? For whom had he had this conflict? What was notable about these people? What effect did the apostle hope that this knowledge would have upon their hearts (v2)? On their relationship? Unto all of what riches? And unto what knowledge? Of both of Whom? What is hidden in Christ (v3)? How much of it?

If the apostle rejoiced in sufferings (cf. 1:24), he must have been FULL of joy, for he had great conflict (v1). This is one of the great differences that genuine Christianity can make—not that it gets us out of suffering (the contrary is often true), but rather that it turns the suffering into fuel for rejoicing.

Genuine Christianity enables great caring. Perhaps you have heard someone express the idea that they were unable to keep caring so much because of how much stress or pain it caused. For the apostle, not only does he care deeply for the churches that he himself had planted and pastored, but he cares for Colossae, Laodicea, and for other churches that had never even seen his face in the flesh. Does this caring cause suffering? This letter is evidence of that!

But treasuring Christ enables the apostle to value suffering for Christ’s sake, and it is exactly this treasuring of Christ that these Colossians are going to need (cf. v4–10). So, he lets them know that not only is his own treasuring of Christ what has transformed his own suffering, but that what he is battling and suffering for is that they, too, may treasure Christ.

What is that believers’ hearts need? Treasuring Christ (v2a).

What is it that knits believers together in love? Treasuring Christ (v2b). The “persuasive words” of v4 will not be able to “deceive” (v4) or “cheat” (v8) them, if their congregational fellowship is built around treasuring Christ together. How important it is, dear believer, that your congregation’s fellowship not be built around hand-wringing over the times in the nation, or even hand-wringing over the deceptions in the church, but rather around the all-surpassing value of Christ which soundly answers these problems. How important it is to have a congregation whose hearts are knit together in love by treasuring Christ exceedingly!

*What is it that gives us assurance of understanding—with the riches, with all the riches that this assurance of understanding brings? It is to treasure Christ. The most important thing to understand is that “glorious mystery” of 1:27—God’s way of making and growing Christians is through union with Christ... their certainty of entering glory comes from the fact that **the Lord of glory already dwells in them.***

This is the “mystery of God” from v2. God is Triune. He is Father, Son, and Spirit. God the Father has given His Son not only for us to die in our place, but also to us to be united to us and dwell in us by His Spirit. God the Son has not only died on the cross, risen again, and ascended into heaven, but He has come to reside in believers by His Spirit Whom He gives to them.

Any wisdom or any knowledge that does not point you back to this gospel of God becoming a Man to die for sinners is no true wisdom at all and no true knowledge at all. This gospel is the mystery of God, the story that no one could have anticipated, but that God has planned, and God has revealed: God has died for believers and come to dwell in believers. Whatever we see about Him in His world and in His word should make us marvel that THIS is the One Who died for us; THIS is the One Who dwells in us! And this is the treasure of all wisdom, and the treasure of all knowledge—to know this about the Christ Whom we treasure!

Who died to atone for sinners? Who dwells in believers? How does this impact your suffering? What part does this have in your fellowship? How does this relate to everything else that you know?

Sample prayer: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we praise You that You have revealed Your triune nature by this marvelous salvation with which You have saved us. Not only has the Son been the One who became man to atone for us, but now He has come and dwelt in us by the Spirit! Forgive us when we seek to have our hearts strengthened by lesser things, or when we build our fellowship upon lesser things, or when we seek our assurance from lesser things. Grant instead that our hearts would be strengthened by treasuring Christ. Grant that our fellowship would be built upon treasuring Christ. Grant that our assurance of understanding would come by treasuring Christ—all of which we ask in His Name, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP73C “Yet Constantly I Am with You” or TPH508 “Jesus, Priceless Treasure”

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)

Colossians chapter 2 verses 1 through 3, these are God's words. I want you to know what great conflict I have for you and those in Laodicea and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh 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 in, whom are hidden.

All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge so far, the reading of God's inspired and inherent work. Now, the previous section and sometimes we have to remind ourselves that these letters were not written in chapters of chapter divisions. Have been put there later in the previous section. He says, in verse 24, now, I now rejoice in my sufferings.

Well, if we look at verse one, we find out that the apostle Paul had lots of reason to rejoice, because he had lots of suffering, she had a great conflict for the Colossians. And for those of you, and for all the other churches, even the ones, especially the ones he's talking about, you've never been to Colossae, you've never been to a literacy at least not to their churches.

Those churches had been planted started by others. Of course by the Holy Spirit but through other men, and he loves them and cares for them and praise for them and strives in his soul, for them, just as he did for those churches that he did start, and they did pass.

And so, he's told them, he's kind of front loaded it by saying he rejoices in his suffering's for them. Beginning of the beginning of verse 21 of verse, 24, of chapter 1. But now he says, before I want you to know what a great conflict I have for you has genuine Christianity, enables him to care, greatly for that.

One of the reasons that many people in this life, either don't care very much or after some experience in life, start to care less is because caring is painful. This is a world that is bound to corruption decay. People are sinful and even a converted people will never stop sitting bringing to some extent misery upon others and and themselves.

And the world is full of unconverted, people. And even the churches have unconverted people in them which is the greatest sorrow for pastors and creatures to know that there are those who are lost in the midst of the congregation who hear, and maybe even agree with the facts of the gospel of Jesus Christ, but they don't rest upon and love and have freedom in the forgiveness of the Lord, Jesus Christ himself and that some of these, rather than being softened and brought to faith by the ministry of the word, and the sacraments.

And and it means grace. They are being hardened just like we see Pharaoh and every experience he has with. The Lord has been hardening him and our readings and studies and exodus so it can be very, very painful thing to love people, especially because of the misery that they have in this life and for some of them, even the misery that they may have forever.

But if the Lord Jesus is your treasure, and if he is your joy and you know that there is an innumerable multitude that he is bringing to faith and that he is building those who are his own up in himself, then you are free to love because treasuring Christ knowing that he suffers with you and you suffer with him.

And that the suffering's that believers have in this life are glorifying the one whom you treasure, and he's using them to produce an incomparable way to glory in you. And in the others, you meet treasures that freeze you from being afraid of the pain or buckling under and being discouraged by the pain.

You're okay getting hurt because you can rejoice even in the midst of suffering and because Paul cared so much. I have a hard enough time caring about the one congregation. The Lord is giving me separate and he had all these churches that he had planted. And then he had all these other churches, he didn't even play to her pastor but because he cared so much he had lots of conflict.

I want you to know what a great conflict. I have for you. And for those of you and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh, you may come to a point in life, where maybe someone that you care about turns on you, or someone that you care about goes through something very painful.

And you may be tempted to say, well if this is what comes from caring, I don't want to care anymore. Well, if you have learned to rejoice and sufferings up verse 24 of the last chapter, then you are free to care. Now surgery and sufferings comes from charging Christ above all things.

And knowing that Christ is God, This has been the great theme of Colossians chapter 1 and it continues.

Now, What does Paul have this conflict for what is he laboring for? What does he desire that the Colossians Christians also would treasure Christ and that treasuring Christ with other people who treasures Christ would knit them together.

That their hearts may be encouraged being knit together in love and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding. What is this understanding that gives us assurance? That is all riches the knowledge of the mystery of God. And what is this mystery of God? He's talking about here, both of the father and of Christ.

First of all, the knowledge that God is our father, not just that he's the creator. Not just the years, y'all age over, the the old mighty, God, the uncreated creator, who rules and overrules, and all things. But when the Lord Jesus came, the only begotten son came, he revealed that fatherhood is something that belongs to God himself that God being triune father, son, and Holy Spirit has in himself fatherhood so that when he made us in such a way that we would have fathers, and we would be children, he's giving us to participate in something that comes from who he is.

And not only is, is God father, but it is God, the son who is the Christ who has given himself for us and who gives himself to us. And that the spirit is God himself, who makes us to know God as our Abba, our father and to know Christ, as the only begotten son, who is God, that is a spirit who opens our eyes to see the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in our hearts, in the face of Jesus Christ.

And so this mystery and it doesn't mean something that is still mysterious. Although it is beyond our understanding, we couldn't know it. And any other way, especially means something that we wouldn't know. If God hadn't told us and that God had planned and waited and then at the right time, he told us all about it.

That's how the word mystery is being used here and so treasuring Christ has enabled the apostle to suffer as he labors. But what he's laboring for is that the Colossians would treasure Christ too? And so, there fellowship is a congregation would be built around, treasuring Christ together, knowing the triune God, the Father who loves them and is there adoptive father in God, the Son because the Father, gave his only begotten son for us and the only begotten son has come and taken us for himself and died to purchase us for himself as his bride and God, the spirit as the one who has come to be with us and dwell in us and make us to know the father and make us to know the sun.

So that as we have fellowship with the spirit, we grow in the knowledge of God, both the father and of Christ verse 2. So treasuring Christ enables us to care like the the apostle cared for them and treasuring Christ does what should be knitting, our hearts together. That's congregational fellowship.

Now one of the things that happens in the church has this churches are split into these demographic groups where their fellowship becomes about what it is like in their season of life, whether you know, it's official or unofficial even in churches, where they don't have, like, official classes and stuff.

You'll see us tend towards like all the wives are off here. And only young men are off there, and all the young ladies are off there and all the men are off there and all the little children are off there and it's possible in those groups to treasure Christ together.

And if that's where you find yourself, you are aiming at treasure in Christ and hoping that the other ones are aiming at treasuring Christ. So that that knowledge of the triune God that comes from treasuring, Jesus will be what nits our hearts together. There's a lot of other things that threaten you know, this late, you know, because of what's going on the last couple years in America, this obsession with politics or other people's obsession with whatever their new hobby is or obsession with a certain kind of technology or obsession with.

I don't know what the ladies obsess about. Yeah, or attempted to at least had gardening or canning here. I don't know. So, obviously, I don't know, because people are shaking their heads at me, but what Paul was laboring and suffering for the Colossians was that their congregational fellowship, there knitting of their hearts together would be in this love of Jesus.

In whom they have come to know the triune God that the Lord of glory himself already dwells in then and then he adds and everything everything that is wisdom or everything that is knowledge will flow out of treasuring crisis. You see that in verse three in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge so that whether we're talking about something in the creation, it is all conscientiously in the context of knowing that Jesus, the creator, the father, the creator, the spirit, the creator that this triune God who made all things is, the is the one to whom we belong in whom we delight.

So he talk about things in science or in music or something else that we're discovering in God's creation and the joy of it becomes that it is from the God who we know in Jesus and the purpose of it becomes to serve the God who has made himself, ours and us.

It's in this or in providence. So the latest happenings all become part of God's work in this world to

gather for himself is elect through faith in Jesus Christ and then to build them up in Jesus Christ. And if there is anything that gets spoken of in another way, if we are forgetful of our God, our creator and our redeemer then it's not really wisdom and it's not really knowledge.

Whether we're talking about what's in our minds or in our conversations? No in Christ. In our God, both the father and Christ are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and of knowledge. So true wisdom and true knowledge will always be a subset of knowing Jesus Christ. So let's pray, God pray, good God, would help us to treasure Christ and thus we would be enabled to care.

Thus we would have the proper basis of our fellowship with others who treasure Christ and thus, what we know, and what we apply would be true. Knowledge and truism.

Our father in heaven. We thank you that you have made us to know you and your son, our Lord Jesus. And that you've given your spirit to us who gives us this knowledge of yourself in the Lord. Jesus we pray. Lord that you would make us able to rejoice and suffering because of our fellowship with and our knowledge of Christ pray that you would help us as a family to have our fellowship, first of all, and most of all in treasuring Christ together who pray that you'd help us today as we learn things and as we apply knowledge but our whole life long that it would all come under the subset of knowing you in our Lord, Jesus Christ.

So that it would be true wisdom and true knowledge. Help us so God to delight in Jesus. We ask in his name. Amen.