

“The Treasury Of Christ”
Colossians 2:1-3

Introduction:

1. Please Turn In Your Bibles With Me To:
 - Paul’s Letter To The Colossian Church:
 - Where - Last Week - As We Were Finishing The First Chapter:
 - Paul Was Sharing His Heart For Them:
 - As A Servant & Minister Of Christ!
 - And His Number One Goal Was To - 1:28 - “Present Every Man Perfect In Christ Jesus!”
 - Well - As We Begin Chapter Two:
 - This Morning - Paul Continues To:
 - Share His Heart:
 - And To Show Them That He Wants Nothing Less Than Their Best:
 - In Their Relationship With Jesus Christ!
2. And So - We Read:
 - 2:1-3 - “For I would that ye knew what great conflict I have for you, and for them at Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh; / That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; / In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge!”
 - Everything Paul Went Through:
 - In His Ministry As An Apostle:
 - Was So That Christians Might **Know More About & Grow More In** Their Savior, Jesus Christ!
 - Because:
 - As He Wrote In 2:3:
 - In Him - “In Whom Are Hid All The Treasures Of Wisdom And Knowledge!”
 - And Those Two Qualities:
 - “Wisdom & Knowledge” - Were Important To Those Colossian Christians!
 - Because - As We Will See Later In This Chapter - There Were False Teachers Who Were Trying To Infiltrate The Church & Lead Them To Other Sources Of Wisdom & Knowledge!
 - And So - Paul Wrote These Words:
 - To Remind Them & To Remind Us:
 - That Christ Is Enough!
 - And That In Him - We Will Find:

1. Our Greatest Contentment!

- Again - As Paul Tells Us About Christ - In 2:3:
 - “In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge!”
 - Now - We Are Going To Look At These Verses A Bit Differently This Morning!
 - We’re Going To Start Where He Ends - And Go Backwards Through These Verses - So That We Can Have A Better Understanding Of Paul’s Heart For God’s People!
 - But Here - In Verse 3:
 - Paul Describes Jesus Christ:
 - Not Just As A **Treasure**:
 - But As A **Treasury** - In Which “All The Treasures Of Wisdom & Knowledge” Reside!
 - **IE**: It’s A Bit Like The US Treasury - Which Is The Repository For All Of The Wealth Of Our Government - In Its Various Forms! Some Of Our Country’s Wealth Is In Gold! But Much Of Our Wealth Is In The Form Of Cash & Currency, As Well As Bonds & Notes! Had A Chance To Go See The Bureau Of Engraving At Washington DC Last September - And See The Printing Of Stacks Of \$20 Bills! Each Stack Itself Was A Small Treasure - But The Treasury Held Them All!
 - So It Is With Christ! In Him Are “Hid” - Not In The Sense Of **Keeping Things From** You - But In The Sense Of **Keeping Things For** You - In Order To Keep It All Secure!
 - **IE**: Again - Like The Security At The US Treasury! Not So Much To Keep People Out - But To Keep Everything Of Value In!

- And So Now:
 - You Too Can Find Your Greatest Contentment In Christ!
 - There Is A Lot Of Distraction In This World - With All Of Its Own Treasures!
 - But The Greatest Treasures Can Only Be Found In Christ!
 - Like The:
- Treasure Of True Knowledge!
 - There Are A Lot Of “Smart” People In This World:
 - And Many Important & Useful Fields Of Science!
 - But - Without The Knowledge Of God & Of Jesus Christ:
 - All Of That Other Knowledge Is Rather Useless!
 - Proverbs 1:7 Tells Us That - “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction!”
 - In Years Gone By - Theology - Which Is The Study Of God - Was Considered To Be The “Queen Of The Sciences!”
 - Because - ***The Best Way To Know The Truth About The Creation Is To Know The Truth About The Creator!***
 - And The Greatest Treasures Of Knowledge:
 - You Can Find In Jesus Christ!
 - But Also:
- The Treasure Of True Wisdom!
 - Wisdom Is Often Described As The Skillful Application:
 - And Use Of Knowledge!
 - Again - There May Be A Lot Of “Smart” People In This World!
 - **IE:** Perhaps You Are Familiar With The Current Champion Of The Game-Show, Jeopardy - James Holzhauer - 21 Wins - \$1.6 Million - Knows A Lot! But What About Wisdom?
 - Most People Have A Desire For Wisdom & Knowledge:
 - In Some Form!
 - But Apart From Jesus Christ:
 - All The Wisdom & Knowledge Of This World Is Superficial!
 - But - “In Him – In Christ – Are Hid All The Treasures Of Wisdom And Knowledge!”
 - Jesus Christ Is Like A Field Of Treasure:
 - For Those Who Believe In Him!
 - John Eadie - “The Highest Forms Of Wisdom & Knowledge Are To Be Found In The Gospel!”
 - Even If You Have All:
 - The Wisdom & Knowledge That This World Has To Offer:
 - You Will Never Be Content!
 - Because Everything Apart From Christ Will “Fall Short Of Heaven!”
 - So - Remember This Morning:
 - Your Greatest Contentment Will Only Be Found In:
 - The Wisdom & Knowledge:
 - Of Christ!
 - So - Never Stop Sitting At The Feet Of Jesus:
 - To Learn From Him & To Learn Of Him!
 - Because He Alone Can Provide:

2. ***Our Greatest Confidence!***

- The Only Way You Will Have Contentment From The Wisdom & Knowledge Of Christ:
 - Is When You Have Confidence In Christ Himself!
 - And This Too Is Why Paul Wrote This Letter!
 - It Was So That - According To 2:2 - We Might Be “Knit Together . . . Unto All Riches Of The Full Assurance Of Understanding, To The Acknowledgment Of The Mystery Of God, And Of The Father, And Of Christ!”
 - This Is One Of The Reasons:
 - God Has “Knit Us Together” As A Church;
 - So That We Would Grow Together:
 - In The Truth About Christ!

- Because The More You Know & Understand Him - The More Confidence You Will Have In Your Faith!
- So - Paul's Desire / And Our Desire:
 - Is For You To Grow In:
- The Apprehension Of The Gospel!
 - When You First Hear The Gospel:
 - The Message Itself Is Rather Simple!
 - So Simple That A Child Can Respond & Believe! Yet - So Simple - That Many Reject It
 - Because It Seems Too Simple!
 - But - There Is More To The Gospel Than Meets The Eye!
 - It Is The "Mystery Of God!"
 - It Is Something That Has Been Partially Concealed Throughout The Old Testament & Has Been More Fully Revealed In The New!
 - But There Is Still So Much To Learn About This Mystery!
 - And The More You Know, The More You Can Grow:
 - In:
- The Assurance Of The Gospel!
 - As It Says In 2:2 - "The Full Assurance Of Understanding!"
 - This Is What Paul Wanted:
 - In The Hearts & Lives Of Those Colossian Christians!
 - Assurance! Do You Have Assurance Of The Gospel In Your Life? Assurance Of - 1:27 - "Christ In You, The Hope Of Glory!"
 - God Does Not Want You:
 - If You Are His Child:
 - To Doubt Your Salvation!
 - He Wants You To Have The Peace & Contentment That Comes From Assurance & Confidence!
 - This Is Why John Wrote:
 - 1 John 5:13 - "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God!"
 - Do You Have This Kind Of Assurance?
 - The Greater Your Apprehension:
 - Of The Gospel - And All That God Has Done In & Through Christ - For You:
 - The Greater Your Assurance!
 - And That Will Further Lead To:
 - The Appreciation Of The Gospel!
 - As It Says Again In 2:2 - "Unto All Riches – Of The Full Assurance Of Understanding!"
 - The Kind Of Assurance Offered To You:
 - In The Gospel - Is Wealth Indeed!
 - "All Riches!"
 - You May Have Nothing That This World Considers To Be Valuable!
 - But Jesus Christ Is The Only True & Lasting & Most Valuable Treasure In This World!
 - As The Old Spiritual Goes:
 - Give me Jesus
 - Oh give me Jesus
 - You can have all this world
 - Oh give me Jesus!
 - And This Is The Greatest Confidence:
 - A Person Can Have!
 - And The More You Know About Christ:
 - The Greater Your Confidence Can Be:
 - In Christ!
 - And That Confidence Is Of More Value Than Any Other Treasure!
 - But That Confidence Will Then Lead To:

3. *Our Greatest Comfort!*

- A Comfort That Can Only Come Through Christ!
 - See This At The Beginning Of 2:2 - "That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love!"
 - This Was Why Paul Wrote To Them!
 - Because This Was & Still Is:
- The Desire Of The Gospel!
 - To Provide "Comfort" And Encouragement:
 - To Those Who Are Suffering & Struggling In This Life!
 - And This Describes All Of Our Situations, Doesn't It?
 - Isn't This Why Jesus Said - Matthew 11:28 - "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest!"
 - And This Is A Comfort That Can Go Deep:
 - Even Into Our "Hearts!"
 - "The Heart Is The Fulcrum Of Feeling And Faith As Well As The Mainspring Of Words And Actions!" (William Hendrickson)
 - So - Not Only Does Christ Offer:
 - The Greatest Contentment & The Greatest Confidence:
 - He Also Offers The Greatest Comfort:
 - To Those In Need!
 - But We Also See:
- The Design Of The Gospel!
 - The Comfort God Offers Is One That:
 - Will Bind & "Knit Together" God's People:
 - In Love!
 - When God's People Come Together:
 - And Remember Who They Were:
 - Apart From Christ! As Well As:
 - Who They Are:
 - Because Of Christ!
 - Love Is What Will Bind Us Together!
 - A Love From God / For God / For Each Other!
 - **IE:** In The Region Of Colosse & Laodicea, They Were Known For Their Wool & For Their Woven Fabric & Tapestries! To Make A Tapestry, Different Strands Would Be Woven Together - May Be Different Colors, Textures, Wool - But They Became One Out Of Many!
 - This Is What Christ Came To Do!
 - This Is Part Of That Mystery Of The Gospel!
 - So That We Might Become Like Joseph's Woven "Coat Of Many Colors!" - Which Was A Sign Of His Father's Love - We Become - A "Church Of Many Colors!" Woven Together Out Of Different Strands - From "Every Nation, And Kindred, And Tongue, And People" - Yet - All Believers In Jesus Christ!
 - Love Is Not Only What Joins & Weaves Us Together / Love Is The Beautiful Tapestry Itself - For All The World To See!
 - And This Is The Great Comfort:
 - That You Can Experience For Yourself:
 - A Comfort Of Great Love:
 - That Will Flow From Your Confidence & Contentment In Christ!
 - And This Was Paul's Greatest Concern For Them! And What Should Also Be:

4. ***Our Greatest Concern!***

- This Is Why Paul Begins This Second Chapter:
 - With These Words - 2:1 - "For I would that ye knew what great conflict I have for you!"
 - This Describes The Great Concern That Paul Had For Those Colossian Christians!
 - The "Great Conflict" He Had For Them Was Not Just Something External, But Internal! Not Just Something Physical, But Spiritual!
 - Later In This Letter - Paul Uses The Same Word Translated "Conflict" Here - To Describe How Their Own Pastor, Epaphras, Was "Always Laboring Fervently . . . In Prayer!" (4:2)
 - And So - As Much As Paul Labored In His Service For The Lord:

- That Is How Much He Longed For Their Growth In Christ - And Likely How Earnestly He Prayed For Them!
 - Especially Since He Was So Far Removed From Them At That Time!
 - **IE:** Have You Ever Felt Like You Were Too Far Away From Someone To Help Them? Your Heart Longs For Them! You Are Greatly Concerned & Conflicted For Them! You Wonder What You Can Do For Them! How About Praying For Them!
 - Remember - Paul Is Writing As A Prisoner In Rome! But He Could Still Express His Great Concern For Them - To The Lord & To Others!
- And This Is Why He Wrote This Letter!
 - Because - As He Continues In 2:1 - Of The “Great Conflict I Have For You – The Colossians – And For Them At Laodicea, And For As Many As Have Not Seen My Face In The Flesh!”
 - He Wrote Because He Knew That:
- They Needed Encouragement!
 - Remember - The Colossian Church:
 - Was A Relatively Small & Isolated Church:
 - In The Town Of Colosse - Which Was Becoming More & More Obscure!
 - And With The Threat Of False Teachers At Their Threshold, Their Church Was In Great Danger!
 - And So - Paul Tells Them About:
 - His Great Concern:
 - To Encourage Them:
 - That They Have Not Been Forgotten! Not By Paul! Not By The Lord!
 - He Also Wrote Because:
- They Needed Edification!
 - The Laodicean Church - Mentioned In This Verse:
 - Was Just About 9 Miles Down The Lycus Valley:
 - But The Fortunes Of Their City Was Much Greater Than Colosse!
 - But - Even Though Laodicea Was Much Larger, Much Richer, And More Prominent Than Colosse:
 - The Church There Was In Need Too!
 - They Were Probably Facing The Same Dangerous Doctrines As The Colossians Were!
 - And So - Paul Tells Them About:
 - His Great Concern For Them Too:
 - To Edify Them:
 - And Build Them Up In Christ!
 - He Also Wrote Because:
- They Needed Enlightenment!
 - Paul Further Mentions His Great Concern In This Verse:
 - “For As Many As Have Not Seen My Face In The Flesh!”
 - This Would Have Included The Colossians & The Laodiceans - But Shows That Paul’s Great Concern Was Much Greater & Wider - To Include The Spiritual Needs Of All Christians & All Churches:
 - Even If He Never Personally Saw Them Or Ministered To Them!
 - And - In A Way - He Is Telling Us:
 - About His Great Concern For Us Too!
 - Even Though We Live In A Different Place & In A Different Time:
 - We Still Face The Same Threats & Dangers!

Conclusion:

1. But This All Leads Us Back To Where We Started:
 - In 2:3 - Because It Is “In Whom” - In Christ:
 - “Are Hid All The Treasures Of Wisdom And Knowledge!”
 - This Was Paul’s Greatest Concern:
 - For Them & For Us!
2. Because Only In The Treasury Of Christ:
 - Will You Find The:
 - True Enlightenment & Edification & Encouragement:

- That You Need - Just As The Churches:
 - In Colosse & Laodicea Needed!
 - Only In The Treasury Of Christ:
 - Will You Find:
 - The Greatest Comfort:
 - That Comes Through The Love Of God And His People!
 - Only In The Treasury Of Christ:
 - Will You Find:
 - The Greatest Confidence:
 - And Full Assurance That Can Come:
 - Through A Thorough Knowledge Of The Mystery Of The Gospel!
 - Only In The Treasury Of Christ:
 - Will You Find:
 - The Greatest Contentment:
 - In His Wisdom & Knowledge!
3. The Treasury Of Christ:
- Is Where You Will Find All You Need!
 - So - Keep Christ First In Your Life!
 - Make Sure He Has The Preeminence!
 - Because Only In Him:
 - Will You Find:
 - The Greatest Treasures:
 - That Will Satisfy Your Soul!

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