

## Rooted in Christ – A Study of Colossians Lesson 8

Women of Grace | GraceLife Church

*For I want you to understand how great a struggle I have on your behalf and for those who are at Laodicea, and for all those who have not seen my face in the flesh, 2 so that their hearts may be encouraged, having been held together in love, even unto all the wealth of the full assurance of understanding, unto the full knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ Himself, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. 4 I say this so that no one will delude you with persuasive argument. 5 For even though I am absent in body, nevertheless I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the stability of your faith in Christ. 6 Therefore as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, 7 having been firmly rooted and being built up in Him, and having been established in your faith—just as you were instructed—and abounding with thanksgiving. -- Colossians 2:1-7*

### Day 1 – Verse 1

*For I want you to understand how great a struggle I have on your behalf and for those who are at Laodicea, and for all those who have not seen my face in the flesh,  
-- Colossians 2:1*

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1. Why would Paul have such love and concern, and be so eager to struggle for a church that he had never met?
  - a. How would Paul's struggle on their behalf helped them combat the false teachers?
  
2. Where was Laodicea? How far from Colossae was it?

- a. Why would Paul be concerned about churches in nearby cities?
  
3. How might it have encouraged the believers at Colossae for Paul to write to them with such love and concern even though he did not personally know them?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Read Revelation 3:14-22.
  - a. What is the charge against the Laodiceans?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. How might putting into practice the principles found in the book of Colossians have kept the Laodiceans from falling into error?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. What does this teach you about how knowledge and wisdom must go hand in hand?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. What does Colossians 4:16 tell us about what Laodicea should do as well as who the "others" may be that Paul is speaking of?

**Heart Check:**

- How often do you struggle on behalf of those who caught up in false teaching?
- Does your heart liken to Paul's when you hear of how false teaching may be filtering into their life and church?
- What ways can you struggle and labour with them?
- Do you often pray for the surrounding cities to GraceLife?

**Day 2 – Verse 2**

*so that their hearts may be encouraged, having been held together in love, even unto all the wealth of the full assurance of understanding, unto the full knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ Himself, -- Colossians 2:2*

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1. How would Paul's struggle on behalf of the Colossians (and all who read the letter) encouraged them?
  - a. How does it encourage you that your leaders struggle and labor on your behalf?
  
2. When false teachings and movements hit the church, the primary attack of Satan is to divide, separate and isolate believers. What does Paul tell the Colossians to do in this verse?

- a. How would fighting for their love and unity by being held together (knit, welded, stuck) be a deterrent to both false teachers and their teaching?
3. What fruit is present when something is amiss or false teaching is infiltrating our life and church? See James 3:14-16, 2 Corinthians 12:20 and Galatians 5:20.
4. Define:
- a. Understanding
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. Knowledge
5. How does attaining full assurance of understanding result in the full knowledge of God's mystery?

- a. What is God's mystery? How can a full knowledge of the person and work of Christ drive out false teaching?

6. Why would Paul call Christ a mystery when He is foretold in the Old Testament?

**Heart Check:**

- As you go about your Christian life (especially mamas in the home), is the fruit of the Spirit evident in your life? Or do you tend to attract chaos and disorder?

**Day 3 – Verse 3**

*in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. I say this so that no one will delude you with persuasive argument. -- Colossians 2 :3*

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1. Gnostics taught that wisdom and a higher knowledge were not only an end in themselves but were only attainable for an elite few and through various avenues such as visions and angels. How does Paul refute that teaching here?



- b. What persuasive arguments are found in the church today?
6. Why do you think that so many cults and false teachers deny or attack the deity of Christ?
7. How does having a true knowledge of Christ and understanding the treasures of wisdom and knowledge enable you to not be deluded by persuasive arguments?
8. Read Jude 1:16 and 1 Corinthians 2:4. Compare the speech of a true shepherd to a hireling.

**Heart Check:**

- Lies so often sound good and tickle the ears, pandering to the flesh. When people tell you things, are they backing them up with Scripture or do you put too much weight in an argument sounding good? Or too much trust in the smooth-persuasive oratory skills of the teacher?
- When you listen to teachers and speakers, are they pointing you to Christ and His Word, in context?

**Day 4 – Verse 5**

*For even though I am absent in body, nevertheless I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the stability of your faith in Christ. -- Colossians 2:5*

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1. How does Paul encourage the Colossians in this verse?
2. What confidence does he show in them?
3. How would Paul's heart and concern for them be different from the false teachers?
4. Paul uses the words "good order". From James 3:13, 16-17, what does it look like in a church (and home) when they are living in good order?



5. Good order/discipline (taxis) and stability (stereōma) are both military terms of soldier formations. How does that help you better understand Paul's meaning?

6. What does it mean to have good discipline?

7. What should you do if your faith lacks stability?

**Heart Check:**

- Though Paul gives very clear warnings in his letter, he also commends the Colossian church. When you warn others, is it balanced with commendation?

**Day 5 – Verses 6-7**

*Therefore as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and being built up in Him, and having been established in your faith—just as you were instructed—and abounding with thanksgiving. -- Colossians 2:6-7*

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1. What is the therefore there for?

2. What does it mean to walk in Christ?

a. How can “walking in Christ” ward off heresy?

3. Can you be a Christian and walk in continual disobedience?

a. What is the purpose of our obedience to Christ? See 1 John 2:3-6 and 5:2-3.

4. When were we firmly rooted in Him?

5. What does the phrase “being built up” imply?

6. Read Jeremiah 17:7-8. How does it describe the person who is rooted in Christ?

7. Who is doing the rooting, grounding and establishing?

8. Why should we be overflowing with gratitude for all He has done for us?

- a. Those who are abounding in thanksgiving are the ones who are satisfied in Christ. Why are those who lack gratitude often the ones carried away by false teaching?

9. What does a lack of gratitude in the life of a Christian often signify?

**Heart check:**

- Are you rooted in Christ? Is that evident in your life through how you face trials and through the fruit that you bear?
- Are you overflowing with gratitude for all that He has done for you? If not, why not?
- Write a prayer of gratitude thanking God for all that he has done for you.

**Dig deeper:**

1. Do a study on gratitude in the life of a believer.
2. Do a study from James 2 on faith and works.