



***For what is the apostle willing to suffer and labor so much? Pastor leads his family in today’s “Hopewell @Home” passage. Colossians 2:4–10 prepares us for the second serial reading in Morning Public Worship on the coming Lord’s Day. In these seven verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us Jesus is God: in Him are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge; in Him all the fullness of the Godhead dwells bodily; He is the head of all principality and power. Because there are false hopes for knowledge and power that threaten to divert believers’ attention from Christ, he is willing endure much in order to see them steadfastly walking by faith in the same One Whom they have received as Lord.***

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**Thursday, November 4, 2021 ▫ Read Colossians 2:4–10**

Questions from the Scripture text: Who is speaking (v4)? To keep what from happening with what other words? What is the apostle’s location (v5)? Where are his thoughts and affections? How does he feel? About what? What have they done with Christ (v6a)? What must they now do with Christ (v6b)? What two verbs does v7 use to describe the relationship to Christ of those who are walking in Him? In what have they been established? Through what mechanism? In what must they now abound? With what attitude of heart? What will such an attitude protect them from (v8)? What four things threaten to compete with Christ in their thinking and values? What is the truth about what dwells in Jesus (v9)? What does Jesus have that He does not have as God but only as man? What do they have, who are in Him (v10)? Of what is He head? How much of it?

Man longs for knowledge and power. God created us with knowledge of Him and with capacity to learn more. God created us to take dominion over the world. But we can’t. We’re fallen into wickedness and weakness, sin and misery.

How can man recover himself? It’s impossible. Impossible in a near-infinite number of ways. Impossible in every way except one: if God Himself is also the Christ (v2), in Whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

There are many things that promise knowledge and power. Philosophers try. And history is full of snake-oil salesmen whose empty promises and infomercials have the same, subtle message of the ancient snake, “you shall be like God.” Manmade religious traditions stack up generations of devotion to produce the appearance of meaning and the experience of sentiment. Then there are the irreligious, who promise knowledge and power through “the basic principles of the world” (almost certainly some form of sorcery in which men believe that they can control hidden powers or beings that are behind the visible world). And to that list of illegitimate sources of knowledge and power, we can add anything else that we think is going to take us to the next level or get us over the hump. Anything, that is except Christ.

This is why the apostle was so willing to suffer (1:24) great conflict (2:1) for the Colossians: in order that no one would deceive them with persuasive words (v4), lest anyone should cheat them (v8) with anything that is not according to Christ.

The Colossian Christians—and every true Christian—began by receiving Christ Jesus the Lord (v6a), being established in the faith (v7b). Having begun by being rooted in Him, they are now to be built up upon Him (v7a). We don’t begin by faith in Christ and then grow and walk in some other way. We begin by faith in Christ. We grow by faith in Christ. We walk by faith in Christ (v6b).

This is what the apostle rejoiced to work at for the Colossians: steady persistence in faith in Jesus Christ (v5).

Not only is everything else an empty, deceitful cheat; it is something far worse. Blasphemy. In Christ, God dwells bodily. No, more than that. In Christ, the fullness of God dwells bodily. No, more than that. In Christ, all the fullness of God dwells bodily. The apostle has piled up the language in v9 to make it clear that this is no mere Man with a divine principle in Him or with Him. No, this is God Himself having added humanity to Himself.

This is the complete source of the Christian’s knowledge and power. Just as in Him are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge (v3), so also He is the Head of all principality and power. The only truth is truth that has as its foundation that Jesus Christ is God. The only power is power that has as its foundation that Jesus Christ is God.

Anything else is an empty, lying cheat. And blasphemy. Walk by the Christ in Whom you were established, dear Christian!

**What are you tempted to think will get you to the next level or get you over the hump in your faith or your life? What do you think will protect you from covid, or government overreach, or your remaining sin, or the destruction of your life? How is Jesus Christ your God the foundation of all true science? Of all true spirituality?**

*Sample prayer: Our God, we thank You for Your mercy to us, that You have given Yourself to be our knowledge and power in Jesus Christ. Lord Jesus, in You all the fullness of the Godhead dwells bodily. Forgive us for when we try to attain knowledge or power in any other way than those You have given to us. Make us to find our fullness only in You and from You, Jesus Christ our God, in Whose Name we ask it, 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 4 through 10. These are God's words. Now this I say lest anyone should deceive you with persuasive words For though, I am absent in the flesh. Yet, I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the steadfastness of your faith and Christ as you therefore have received Christ, Jesus, the Lord.

So walking him rooted and built up in him and established in the faith. As you have been taught abounding in it with Thanksgiving Beware. Plus, anyone treat you through, philosophy emptied, the seat. According to the tradition of men according to the basic principles of the world and not according to Christ for in Him.

Dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily and you are complete in Him. Who is the head of all principality and power?

So, farther reading of God's inspired and aren't words. Now, the Apostle has just been telling them that he has great struggles for them and even suffering for them. Going back into chapter 1, verse 24. I rejoice in my sufferings for you chapter 2 verse 1, I want you to know what a great conflict.

I have for you Now that Colossae was a church that he had not been to. He was not the one who had planted and there were other ones such. As those mentioned in verse 1, those in Laodicea and the others that had not seen his face in the flesh, and yet he worked for them and he labored for them and he was concerned for them.

Like he was there. He loved and cared about them every bit as much just by his memory of them and his thoughts towards them in his heart for them. That's what he means. When he says, verse 5, the absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in the spirit rejoicing to see.

So, on the one hand, he's laboring and suffering and concerned in his spirit. But the reason he is willing to exert himself and his mind and his heart so much for them is that there's something glorious to see by the outcome of all of this labor, and all of this warning.

And that glorious thing is to see them not being turned aside or deceived or cheated by any kind of false teaching. But steadfastly consistently keeping their faith in Christ walking by faith in Christ. And that if this is the outcome of his caring about them of his praying for them in particularly of his writing this letter to them, then that will be cause for great joy for him a great joy for the apostle to see them persist and walking with Christ.

Now there are things that threaten our walking with Christ. One of those things is persuasive. Words verse 4. Last. I said. Now this I say last anyone should deceive you with persuasive words. It's no different today in this regard. Then it was Some almost 2019 hundred. And fifty or so.

Years ago. When the apostle was writing there are people who speak and write words that sound reasonable and are convincing not even not just reasonable but appealing to our pride appealing to our self-confidence Even today the false teachers like you're worthy and you can do it and you've got it in you and, you know, they they have these kind of pep talk sermons.

And the Bible says, actually Christ has everything good in him and apart from him you have nothing good in you whatsoever. And but there are persuasive words that threaten to turn our attention away from Christ to turn our faith away from Christ. There's philosophy, Beware, lest anyone cheats you through philosophy.

The idea that simply by thinking through things carefully, we can achieve our goals in growth and behavior, the most, or one of the most popular techniques for life change. Now among those who know not Christ, no, not the power of God, no, not union with him and righteousness before, God and free and full forgiveness and love for God, and the Holy Spirit, applying Christ to them, you can hear all the things that God has given for to us for walking and growing and being built up.

But without those things, you know, one of the most popular in the world is cognitive behavioral therapy. And that is the idea that by carefully changing the way you think that you can produce behavior. It's a form of being cheated through philosophy through empty deceit Now. God transforms us by the renewing of our mind through faith in Jesus Christ.

So, the mind is necessary and important and useful. But apart from Christ, philosophy is an empty deceit. If Christ is not your philosophy and the heart of your philosophy, then then such efforts are in vain or according to the tradition of men, people will trot out. You know, they'll write these books and try and show that their advice has ancient tradition behind it and the older something looks, you know,

supposedly the more deep it's spirituality.

Well, There are very old and deeply spiritual traditions of demons idolatry. By the time, for instance, Jeroboam son of Niebet sets up the golden calf. Well, golden calves for Yahweh worship had a very ancient tradition going back to the Exodus itself while Moses was on the mountain. And there are traditions today, that people when they find out that they came from the church, they'll say, huh?

See this isn't pagan. This is Christian. He said well it was a demonic invention in the church. Yeah. A thousand or fifteen hundred or 1800 years ago. That doesn't make it any more Christian anymore godly anymore wise than if it was invented yesterday. Now, the traditions of men, if they are not from the scripture, if they are not from the scripture that they aren't in Christ, and if they aren't in Christ, what power can they have?

And what good can they do? They're not deeply spiritual and good and helping me to think about this and helping me to think of no, The one who helps me as God the Holy Spirit applying Christ. To me That is easy to be self-deceived whether by the persuasive words, we heard about at first or philosophy and empty to seat or according to the tradition of men or even according to the basic principles of the world.

And you know that brings us back. There's you know the different commentators and scholars have questions about this, what this means. But basically the basic principles of the cosmos, it's a comparison between the creature and the Creator That has been the great theme of chapter 1 and that Jesus is the Creator and the great theme of the first 10 verses of chapter 2 is that Jesus is the Living.

God, the knowledge of the mystery of God is the knowledge, both of the Father and of Christ Verse 2, Jesus, as the Living, God is the one in whom are hidden. All the treasures of wisdom and of knowledge, verse 3 In Jesus, dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily verse 9.

And he is the one who is the head of all principality and power verse 10. There's only one who can be any of those things Creator. The one in whom are all treasures of wisdom and knowledge, the one in whom the fullness of the Godhead. Dwells the one who is the head of all principality and power select the Apostle by the Spirit to say and go over and over again.

Jesus is Yahweh, Jesus is Yahweh, Jesus is Yahweh, Jesus is the Creator, the uncreated creator, the only true and living God, apart from him. There's nothing in the cosmos and in all of the cosmos, and that's what the word world is. There's nothing in all of the creation that can give you wisdom.

That can give you power that can increase your ability or that will deliver you from the rule or authority of anything else. Nothing can do you the good that you look for except Jesus? Now this of course is what the Corinth, the not Corinthian. The Colossian believers had to believe to start.

This is what you had to believe. If the Lord has brought you to faith, Then this is what you had to believe that. You're only hope was in Jesus Christ that even your knowing and degreeding with these truths as a, as a matter of accuracy, didn't save you that you're being part of this family of didn't save you that you're having all of this exposure to the Word of God, didn't save you.

That your consecrating. The Lord's day is holy and gathering in the public worship, with the means of grace, didn't save you, because they were means and what you needed is him. Who was gracious that Jesus alone? The living God who gave himself, not just four men but two men by faith.

Do you by faith? That he is your only hope. Well, that's how you begin as a Christian, perhaps, some of younger ones. Wonder if you're a real Christian, the real question is, is Jesus. My God. All my hope and nothing that daddy does, or nothing that I do anyone else does.

But Jesus only. Well, that's how you start in the faith. And he says, in verse 6, as therefore, you have received Christ Jesus the Lord. And that's, you know, we know that the word curioski can be Lord in many ways but it is also the word that the by which they translated Yahweh from the Old Testament.

And that's clearly in the context, what it means. And this context. And he says, as you have received Christ, Jesus Jehovah, The Living God, So walk in Him, So saying, the way you begin as a Christian, is the way you continue as a Christian rooted in him, built up in him.

This is what he is laboring and suffering for to see the steadfastness of their faith in Christ verse 5 and you are complete in Him verse 10. In other words, Since Jesus, the Living God is the one in whom we have all of our spiritual life. There's nowhere else to look for anything.

We're completing him and looking to anything else depending upon anything else. Is is a being deceived or cheated to use the language of verse 4, verse 8 Now. Does this mean you don't use means? No, it doesn't mean you don't use means, it means you use. Whatever means He has appointed because if you're trusting him to be your life and he says, okay, these are the things that you do and that I will use doesn't mean you do nothing.

It means you do what he says, but it means you don't trust in doing what he says. You trust in the one who told you to do it because, you know, that he is the one who is going to use it. And as you do. So your acknowledging that Jesus is God and glorifying him and honoring him and trusting him.

And as he works in you, He is displaying that he is God and glorifying himself in your life, which is a great high privilege. And this is what the Apostle rejoiced to look forward to there. The end of verse 5 That was worth suffering and conflict and labor, and it is worth your own suffering and conflict and all of your effort resting in Christ.

By the means that he is appointed, not because you think your use of the means will do it but because, you know that God gave himself for you as Jesus Christ to you. As Jesus Christ, that he will do it. I meant that's back.

I got in heaven Father Southern Holy Spirit. We thank you that you have been pleased to show the glory of the sun and the divinity of Christ in making us complete in him. And giving him to us to trust in and to receive him as Lord. And then to walk in him and be rooted in him, then be established built up in him.

So we pray that you would help us to do so and we pray that you would exalt the Lord Jesus in our thoughts and our feelings, and then our choices. Don't let us be turned away by our or anyone else's ideas to rest in them, but make us to rest.

Only in Christ, we ask in his name, man.