

Colossians 2 - Part two New American Standard Bible

You Are Built Up in Christ

For I want you to know how great a struggle I have in your behalf and for those who are at Laodicea, and for all those who have not personally seen my face, ² that their hearts may be encouraged, having been knit together in love, and *that they would attain* to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, *resulting* in a true 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 deceive you with persuasive arguments. ⁵ For even though I am absent in body, I am nevertheless with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your orderly manner and the stability of your faith in Christ.

⁶ Therefore, as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, *so* walk in Him, ⁷ having been firmly rooted and *now* being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, *and* overflowing with gratitude.

⁸ See to it that there is no one who takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception in accordance with human tradition, in accordance with the elementary principles of the world, rather than in accordance with Christ. ⁹ For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, ¹⁰ and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over every ruler and authority; ¹¹ and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision performed without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ, ¹² having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. ¹³ And when you were dead in your wrongdoings and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our wrongdoings, ¹⁴ having cancelled the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. ¹⁵ When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display *of them*, having triumphed over them through Him.

¹⁶ Therefore, no one is to act as your judge in regard to food and drink, or in respect to a festival or a new moon, or a Sabbath day— ¹⁷ things which are *only* a shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ. ¹⁸ *Take care that* no one keeps defrauding you of your prize by delighting in humility and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on *visions* he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind, ¹⁹ and not holding firmly to the head, from whom the entire body, being supplied and held together by the joints and ^[w]ligaments, grows with a growth which is from God.

²⁰ If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees, *such as*, ²¹ “Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!” ²² (which all *refer to* things destined to perish with use)—in accordance with the commandments and teachings of man? ²³ These are matters which do have the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and humility and severe treatment of the body, *but are* of no value against fleshly indulgence.

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

What questions were provoked within you?

Did anything confuse you?

Did anything move you emotionally?

Did God instruct you to do something?

Did you gain any insight into God's character?

Paul's Questions and insights

1. Why would Paul be struggling on behalf of this Church?
2. When you see, as a teacher, the student not getting what you are teaching, it's a struggle, there are frustrations and disappointments.
3. When you have seen, as a teacher, students get hold of the teaching and then let it go, it is heart breaking.
4. When you have discovered revelation from God to enrich and advance the well-being of the body of Christ and they don't get it, or they refuse to get it, it is very hard to accept.
5. Paul wants his young converts to be encouraged, so that they will make personal progress on their spiritual journey with God.
6. There is nothing so uplifting than to hear of your children walking in the truth of God. Truth that binds our hearts/spirits in love to each other, so together we are in love with God.
7. It is out of love that adoration and worship flow.
8. If you understand what you have believed and you believe what you understand, you will become secure, like a pillar, safe through any storm.
9. Do you really know the message of Jesus?
10. Anything worth having is found through knowing Him, anything worth being is found in Him. He is the essence of life now and in eternity.
11. If you know the truth and live in the truth, when they come with their human arguments you will not be persuaded at their proposals. What they share will be preposterous to you compared with the truth you know and are living in.
12. To be 'with you in spirit' is to be there, even though you are not.
13. This is possible when you pay attention to what you know Paul would do, if Paul were there in body with you.
14. Paul, as their teacher, can rejoice about them when they implement the truth he has taught them and they are applying that truth.
15. Having received Jesus is to accept His charge over you, which is a willingness to surrender to Him and His ways.
16. To walk in Him, is to do what you know He wants you to do, not just to talk the talk but to walk the walk.
17. Firmly rooted, is to establish yourself in His ways, so you can grow in Him and sustain the faith investment you made, when you trusted Him and not yourself.
18. To be taken captive is to give your ear to the nonsense, Adam fell to the temptation, but Jesus rejected the temptation.
19. If you believe them, you will imprison yourself to their teaching when it is in conflict with God's word. It will cause you to have turbulence.
20. The principles of the world, the wisdom of man, is an attempt to explain the unanswerable questions. Their principles of wisdom have come from the realm of the spirit in the heavenly places.
21. Jesus is the answer to all of the unanswerable questions.
22. Jesus has been given authority over everything.
23. Circumcision of heart is to surrender to His Lordship.
24. Buried in Christ is to have died to self and live for God.
25. To be raised up with Him, is to live in the newness of the new life you now have in Christ – the old has gone, the new has come.
26. God in Jesus met us while we were hostile and rebellious to His ways.
27. Through forgiveness we are acceptable to God in Christ.
28. The certificate of debt is payment for all the wrong things we have ever done that have offended God. In Jesus He has torn it up.

29. Jesus having gone to the cross paid the debt we owed to God, Jesus took back the evil power over us and freed us to start all over again, only this time with the new nature of God.
30. Jesus took back the keys that held you captive by Satan.
31. The nonsense teaching and the ideas of men will only imprison you into do's and don'ts and encourage to rely on your flesh to find acceptance from God, and so rob you of the gift of grace.
32. The prize is to enjoy the grace relationship God invites us into with Him, through Jesus.
33. To be defrauded is to have something stolen away from you.
34. Spiritual stupidity has no substance, it won't keep your eyes on Jesus but on experience of the mind and the emotions.
35. Stay connected to the body of Christ and the truth of God's word.
36. If you have died with Christ why go back to something less than Christ? Self made religion has no power to change only power to imprison.