

Colossians 2:1-10

1 Literally a "contest" and it is between the false teachers and the Apostles' doctrine. The heart wrenching battle that pastors endure is glimpsed in this insight into Paul's heart. The root of the word is *agon* from which we get agony. He was struggling in prayer for the honor of Christ and the faith of those in the Lycus Valley.

2 Paul prays for them to have a heart attachment to Jesus that slick talkers cannot overcome. Persuasion is not as powerful as love. It implies an impartation of the courage to cope with their situation. Perhaps the last part of the verse is better translated "instructed in love and so led on to appropriate all the riches..." Love is the telltale mark of a genuine church.

Verse two ends with many variations in the MSS and many translations - Interpreters Commentary suggests "The God Christ" *Theos Christos* which is in many manuscripts. Some others "...of God, and of the Father, and of Christ." Some manuscripts omit the phrase altogether.

3 All wisdom and knowledge is in Christ, not some Gnostic secret teaching. Knowledge is intuitive or instinctive grasp of the truth. Wisdom is to be able to intelligently convey the truth that is understood. (1Corinthians 2:10) Hid to those who do not believe but available to dive into for the believer. Isaiah 45:3

4 A heart attachment that opens the mind to the mystery of Christ which overrides the cunning rhetoric of men.

5 I don't think it is some mystical presence, rather the heart of a pastor for other believers he hears about, a heartfelt concern. He says the same in 1Corinthians 5:3 "good order" - *taxis* -rank/ordered arrangement, a military term. "firm in the faith" 1Peter 5:9 *stereoma* - an immovable phalanx -"The Church should be like an ordered army, with every man in his appointed place, ready and willing to obey the word of command." Barclay's Daily Study Bible (NT).

6-7 Since you claimed Jesus as Savior and Lord... live in Him! It's a choice we must make daily. Our stability comes from the fact that we draw our nourishment from Christ and our foundation is upon Him, the unshakable rock. AS you were taught- our fundamentals never change.

The true believer can be spotted by their thankful heart that overflows in every area of life. Our words and our works should express our gratitude to God for all He has done for us. A grateful heart is less likely to be seduced by false doctrines. The distinguishing mark of the true Church is an abounding and overflowing gratitude. Thanksgiving is the constant and characteristic note of the Christian life. As J. B. Lightfoot put it: "Thanksgiving is the end of all human conduct, whether observed in words or works." The one concern of the Christian is to

tell in words and to show in life his gratitude for all that God has done for him in nature and in grace. Barclay's Daily Study Bible (NT).

See the three metaphors: walk, grow, build. Rooted (past tense) is more likely not a plant root but the foundation of a building or city. Built up is ongoing. This is living in Christ, firm in the foundation laid in the Gospel but continuing to build.

8 "captive" – like a conqueror leading slaves away from their home. Human tradition will end up at odds with Scripture - one must choose. "elemental" - ABCs of Judaistic Gnosticism? Or perhaps the influence of the stars over one's life, a commonly held belief at the time. This is the world versus Christ - one is vanity and the other is profound wisdom. The traditions that Gnostics wanted the church to accept: additional philosophy, astrology, worship of angels, circumcision, and ascetic rules.

9 God is fully present in the body of Christ. He is the Tabernacle. You don't need to go anywhere else to get anything else! It's all in Christ!

10 What the mystics are seeking in the elemental spirits is already ours in Jesus! The Gnostics that the rule and authority of the stars (elements) held sway, but Paul says Jesus is the head of all elements because He made them! Ephesians 3:19

Consider: Are you walking in Christ, continuing to build on the foundation of the Gospel? Is your gratitude for Jesus' life in you keeping you from the world's philosophies?