

Full Faith in the Fullness of Christ

Colossians 2:1-15 | Mark Foreman | May 8, 2022

Assurance from Pastor Paul (1-5)

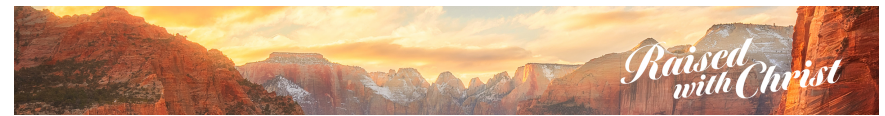
- Paul is contending (persistent in prayer) for them and those in Laodicea (1).
- Paul wants them encouraged, united & growing in their understanding (2).
 - *encouraged (strengthened) in heart (the will, not emotions)*
 - *united in love (false teaching emphasizes divides)*
 - *growing in knowledge (learned truths & understanding (applied truths)*
- Paul is strengthening them in truth so no one deceives them with lies (3-4).
- Through prayer, Paul is with them in spirit (5).

Paul's Commands to Live in Christ and Be Discerning (6-8)

- Just as you *received him* by faith, *continue to live in Him* by faith (6-7).
 - We must continue. True faith is persevering faith.
 - *Rooted and built up in him and strengthened in the faith...*
 - Roots are a great picture for strong faith – winds, erosion, drought.
- Faith (trusting, letting go and surrendering our lives) in the finished and full work of Christ leads to overflowing thankfulness (7).
- Faith protects us from deceiving philosophies that steer us to trust in human traditions and *elemental spiritual forces rather than on Christ* (8).
 - *Philosophy* – (originally: love of wisdom) an adopted way of thinking and viewing life that influences our decisions and how we live.
 - *Hollow* (empty, foolish, worthless) – nothing in the bowl.
 - *Deceptive* – looks good and believable but actually is harmful.

Why We Should Absolutely Trust in Christ (9-14)

- Because... Paul gives us the reason we should absolutely trust in Christ (9).
- Because of Who He is – He's Fully God (9-10)
 - All the fullness of God lives in Christ
 - We are brought to fullness in Christ
- Because of What He has done (11-13)
 - Cut away the old self, burying it in baptism.
 - And raised us with him in his Resurrection.
 - He forgave our sins, nailing our sins to the cross.
 - He disarmed all authorities who would accuse us.



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