

“PRAYER FROM A PASTOR’S HEART”

COLOSSIANS 2:1-4

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INTRODUCTION

A pastor or Christian leader who truly cares for his flock will urgently pray for them and do all he can to make sure that they will stay on a godly path believing and practicing truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. Hendriksen wisely notes that the heart of any genuine pastoral care must involve being God’s instrument to bring the hearts of those with whom they are entrusted to Christ and to His heart. Since the **heart** is the source from which all activity, thought, emotion, and will springs, having the heart under divine control means that the entire person is under His control (v. 2).

Paul clearly continues his argument begun in chapter 1 and connects v. 29 with the conjunction “for.” In addition to Paul’s suffering on behalf of Christ’s body (1:24) and his Ministry of stewardship given him for the benefit of the church and even the Colossians in order to fully carry out the preaching of the gospel so as to present every man perfect in Christ (1:25-29), Paul also has pastoral concern for them that each believer might find complete satisfaction of knowledge, understanding, and wisdom in Christ and Christ alone and not be led astray by the errorists (2:1-4). **Anyone who shares Paul’s exalted concept of Christ (cf. Col. 1:15ff) can never be indifferent to the inroads of error.**

At the root of the issue is the heart of the believer. Paul’s heart goes out to them, and he desires them to cling to Christ’s heart. I remember a song of days gone by: **“How about your heart, is it right with God?”**

LET YOUR HEART CLING TO CHRIST [AND YOU WILL REJECT ERROR AND CLING TO HIS TRUTH]

I. THE PASSION OF THE PREACHER’S HEART (1)

A. Spiritual conflict—the agony of the “Contest”

1. “How Great” a struggle
2. Against spiritual forces, the world, and the flesh—his own and that of believers

B. The unselfishness of the conflict

1. The Colossian Christians
2. The Laodicean Christians
3. All those—including the former—who have not “seen me personally”—my face in the flesh, including those also of Hierapolis.

What a great man was Paul; his passion was even for those he had never worked with or even seen!

II. THE PRAYER FOR THE BELIEVER’S HEART (2)

A. The Need for Encouragement and Comfort: error leads to distraction and mental turmoil, and also to the loss of peace and solace which the new religion had imparted to them.

B. The Need for spiritual unity

1. They need to be “knit together”
2. Love in Christ is the unifying bond

Error leads to suspicion and alienation. One wonders if his neighbour be infected, and how far; and that neighbour reciprocates similar curiosity and doubts. Caution defeats its very purpose, and fails to secure good understanding.

C. Such results in great wealth—“all wealth, riches”

1. Full assurance/fullness
2. Understanding—clear thinking, discernment, decision making, beliefs

- Robertson comments that Paul “desires the full use of the intellect in grasping the great mystery of Christ and it calls for the full and balanced exercise of all one’s mental powers”
- Having such fullness/full assurance of understanding involves the “fixed persuasion that you comprehend the truth, and that it is the truth which you comprehend”—not merely a “vivid belief” that one knows the truth, but that such truth is “fully understood” (E. 108).

D. And that leads to true/full knowledge

1. Knowledge of God’s mystery
2. That mystery is summed up in Christ (cf. 1:26-27)

III. THE PRECIOUS TREASURES FOUND IN THE HEART OF CHRIST (3)

Moo calls this verse “the Christological high point of the letter” that expresses “beautifully and compactly the cutting-edge Christological point that is Paul’s driving concern: Christ is the one in who is to be found *all* that one needs in order to understand spiritual reality and to lead a life pleasing to God

A. The best and only true Treasures are found in Christ

1. Treasure of great value
2. Treasure hidden—kept safe for those who Trust Him and come to know Him by faith

B. The treasure consists of wisdom and knowledge

1. Knowledge of the truth and God’s will
2. Wisdom able to process that truth and apply it to daily circumstances
 - *We need not look anywhere else; we must not be allured to someone who has “found” some better teaching, some better deliverer—something or anything beyond Christ as He has shown us in His word.*
 - Hendriksen notes that no man, angel, or “any other creature has anything at all to offer which cannot be found *in incomparably superior essence and in infinite degree* in Christ

IV. THE DANGERS OF THE HEART OF THE FALSE TEACHERS (4)

A. Errorists “Reason alongside/beside/apart from” the true Biblical doctrine

1. Coming to wrong conclusions by going apart from the orthodox truth of the faith
2. Misusing Scripture in order to accomplish one’s own agenda

B. Errorists use “Enticing/persuasive words”

1. Plausible sounding words
2. Talking one into some aberrant teaching

CONCLUSION

We live in a broken world—broken people, broken lifestyles, and broken teachings.

What is a believer to do?

Follow the heart of those who have godly Biblical passion and who stick close to Christ and His Word.

Let your own heart be encouraged, let your heart be knit together in love with genuine believers, let your heart attain full assurance/fullness of understanding and come to solid knowledge of God’s mystery—Christ.

Find your hidden treasure of wisdom and knowledge in Christ—in Christ alone.

Stay away from, don’t be enamored by, persuaded by, false teachers with persuasive words, departing from the full sufficiency found in Christ alone.

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