

Colossians - Part 6
Encouraged
07/07/2024

- Encouragement
- People need encouragement
- Those without your memories cannot feel your pain

Romans 12:8 (GN) if it is to encourage others, we should do so

- To exhort, come alongside of, comfort, or encourage
- The superiority of Christ over all human philosophies and traditions
- Doctrinal content
- Theology
- Guidance and directives
- Paul separates the Gospel from moralism
- Paul is for morality
- He's against moralism
- Morality is the byproduct of relationship with Jesus not the cause of it
- Self Help
- If I improve, then I'll be accepted - by God, by others, even by myself
- The Gospel announces that everyone "In Christ" is already accepted by God because of Jesus work for them
- Jesus helps those who know they can't help themselves

Col. 2:1-7 (ESV) For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face, that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments. For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ. Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

How To Be Encouraged:

1st) **FIGHT** for it.

Col. 2:1 (ESV) For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face,

that their hearts may be encouraged,

- Discouragement
- Discouragement comes from allowing your mind to drift wherever it wants
- To feed your mind with the wrong information -

2 Cor. 10:5 (GNT) we pull down every proud obstacle that is raised against the knowledge of God; we take every thought captive and make it obey Christ.

- What you hear you eventually believe.
- Faith comes by hearing

Romans 10:17 (NKJV) So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

- I learn to think biblically which takes effort

Duet. 31:6 (MSG) "Be strong. Take courage. Don't be intimidated. Don't give them a second thought because God, your God, is striding ahead of you. He's right there with you. He won't let you down; he won't leave you."

1 Tim 6:12 (NIV) Fight the good fight of faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

Isaiah 40:31 (NIV) but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

- It's always something!
- You're never going to have a problem-free life
- Nothing on earth is perfect
- Invisible war

Three Battles:

A) **INSIDE** you

B) **AROUND** you

C) **AGAINST** you

2nd) Be **ASSURED**.

Col. 2:2-3 (ESV) to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

- Assurance and Encouragement
- Assurance of your salvation brings encouragement to your daily life

Luke 2:10 (NIV) But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.

1 John 5:13 (NIV) I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

1 John 2:12 (NIV) I am writing to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name.

Col. 1:12 (ESV) giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

- You're already qualified
- You don't have to make the grade on your own or seek approval from anyone!
- In Christ, you're in!
- Because Jesus was someone you're free to be no one!
- We desperately want to be free of painful situations

Col. 1:13-14 (ESV) He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

- Easing circumstances, relief from difficulty, and distance from pain in order to be free
- The freedom Jesus secures for us is not freedom from pain and suffering
- It's freedom from bitterness, anger, fear, resentment and from my burdensome sense of “I deserve better”

3rd) Learn to **RECOGNIZE** counterfeits.

Col. 2:4 (ESV) 4 I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments.

- By definition anything that leaves you insecure and uncertain, forever wondering
- Am I forgiven? Am I accepted?
- Anything that does that is not good news
- Most Christians are joyless
- The reason is they've either never heard the Gospel or never believed the Gospel
- Your decisions decide your stress