

We Are Glad *You* Are Here

Sunday, January 18, 2026



sermon: "A Model Ministry" - Colossians 2:1-5

Big Idea: The Apostle Paul's example reminds us that we best serve others when we first obey Jesus

- I. Paul's Attitude (vv. 1-3)
 - A. Paul's attitude is that he is willing to endure whatever he must for Christ's glory and for the building up of His church, even for those he has not personally met. We see this in:
 - 1. His struggle (v. 1; cf. Col. 1:3, 9-10, 24) – seen in hardships, suffering, and perseverance in prayer.
 - 2. His vision (cf. Rom. 15:23-24) – The church beyond borders.
 - B. Paul recognizes God's grace and mercy upon him through Christ (cf. 1 Tim. 1:14-16). This fills Paul with a purpose to bless others even at the expense of his own comfort so that God's people:
 - 1. Are encouraged in heart (v. 2; cf. 1 Thes. 5:11).
 - 2. Are united in love (v. 2; cf. Rom. 12:9-10; 1 Cor. 16:14).
 - 3. Have a full knowledge of Messiah Jesus (vv. 2-3; cf. Col. 1:15-19).
 - 4. Have a full assurance in Christ (v. 2; cf. Heb. 10:19-23) – A confidence that comes from a well-placed trust.
 - C. There was much that Paul could not control, but what he could control—his attitude—he focused on a selfless devotion to Christ and service to His Kingdom and church.
- II. Paul's Approach (vv. 4-5)
 - A. Paul's approach is like that of a spiritual father who cares deeply for God's church (cf. 1 Cor. 4:14-17). Paul wants the church to reach full maturity in Christ so that:
 - 1. We are not deceived (led astray) by fine-sounding arguments (v. 4; cf. 1 Cor. 2:1-5) – Arguments that can seem plausible but have no basis in Scripture or in Christ.
 - 2. Our faith in Christ will continue to grow, encouraging and strengthening the church (v. 5).
 - B. The Colossians faced a culture that was often hostile to Christ. So do we. But as we listen to our Shepherd's voice and obey Him, we can find assurance and hope in challenging times.

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