

## Week Three

### Introduction

1. Hack or Fact:
2. Envisioning: Psalm 1:1-3

Blessed is the man

who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,  
nor stands in the way of sinners,  
nor sits in the seat of scoffers;

2 but his delight is in the law of the Lord,  
and on his law he meditates day and night.

3 He is like a tree

planted by streams of water  
that yields its fruit in its season,  
and its leaf does not wither.

In all that he does, he prospers.

### Review

1. Studying Epistles
2. Last week
  - a. Christ Hymn
    - i. Lord of Creation
    - ii. Lord of Redemption
  - b. Reconciliation

### Study/Discussion of Colossians 1:24-2:7

#### 1. Paul's Ministry Colossians 1:24-29

- a. Paul's Attitude in ministry
  - i. Joy
  - ii. Filling up what is lacking
    1. A lot of different interpretations
    2. He doesn't mean Christ's atonement was lacking because the entire book is about Christ's absolute sufficiency.
    3. All agree that there is a close identification between Christ and the Church through suffering.
      - a. His sufferings benefitted the church.
      - b. His sufferings brought about a special union/communion with Christ
      - c. His sufferings were bringing nearer the day the goal of all nations reached and the return of Christ
  - iii. Passion
    1. He uses words like toil, struggling with all his energy
    2. The word can be translated as "agonize" over you
- b. Paul's Calling in ministry
  - i. To make the word of God fully known (to preach God's word)
    1. Knowing Christ means knowing God's word
    2. Looking at the old testament through the lens of Christ

3. Mystery hidden for the ages is now revealed to everyone
- ii. To preach specifically to the gentiles.
  1. Christ in you, the hope of glory
  2. Christ dwells in Jews and Gentiles
  3. Eph. 3:4-6 When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, 5 which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. 6 This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.
- c. Paul's Goal in ministry
  - i. To present everyone mature in Christ
  - ii. Not just a profession of faith
  - iii. Transformational faith
  - iv. "Paul's means of bringing believers to maturity, according to verse 28, was threefold: proclamation, admonishment, and teaching." R. Kent Hughes
- d. Paul's energy in ministry
  - i. labor - used in the greek for work which left someone so weary it was as if the person had taken a beating. It denotes labor to exhaustion. It's our English word agony and is used for agonizing in an athletic event or a fight.
  - ii. His energy. Jesus' energy. Did anyone look at cross-references here?
    1. Philippians 4:13 explains how: "I can do all things through him who strengthens me." the "Him" refers to "the Lord," meaning Christ, from verse 10, which is why some translations make it plain: "through Christ who strengthens me."
    2. 1 Timothy 1:12 confirms that Paul indeed has Christ Jesus our Lord specifically in mind as the supplier of his strength: "I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord." Similarly,
    3. Ephesians 6:10 confirms this connection of human strength provided supernaturally by Christ himself, the God-man — the particular person of the Godhead who Christians confess as "Lord": "be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might." Finally
    4. 2 Timothy 2:1 makes the same connection between spiritual strength and Jesus as the source: "be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus."
    5. "Paul not only claims to be strengthened by divine power — infinitely precious as that is. Paul speaks with more specificity. He testifies to divine-human power, to having Jesus's own energy — "all his energy" — worked in him, and done so "powerfully," by Christ himself." - David Mathis

6. Jesus knows what it's like to have human limitations. He hasn't left us to our own frailty.
7. We need to ask for His energy.
- e. Not just Paul or pastors, but all of us.
  - i. African woman who got saved. She was blind, uneducated, and 70 years old.
    1. Had missionary underline john 3:16 in french bible
    2. Sat outside the door of a boys school
    3. Asked if they knew french
    4. Asked them to read and translate the sentence underlined in red
    5. Asked, "Do you know what this means?"
    6. Shared the gospel
    7. Over the years 24 young men became pastors due to her work
  - ii. She had what Paul had
    1. A heart for ministry
    2. A calling to minister
    3. A goal for ministering
    4. And the energy to minister

## 2. Paul's Concern for the Colossians Colossians 2:1-5

- a. The intensity of his concern
  - i. That word means *agonizing* over them
- b. The actual concern
  - i. Increased knowledge and focus on Christ
  - ii. This is in contrast to whatever that false teaching is that is circulating
  - iii. What we believe about Christ, our conception of him, is everything.
    1. List what we know just from Colossians
      - a. Image of the invisible God
      - b. Lord of creation, ruling, and sustaining
      - c. Lord of redemption, ruling and sustaining the church
      - d. He has reconciled guilty humanity - you who were once hostile, doing evil - through His blood, we are reconciled to God.
      - e. He is the lover of your soul
  - iv. How does this increased knowledge come to us?
    1. Wherever believers' hearts are bound together in love.
    2. FF Bruce quote: "Paul emphasizes that the revelation of God cannot be properly known apart from the cultivation of brotherly love within the Christian community."
  - v. This results in a more profound knowledge of Christ. Wisdom and knowledge.
    1. Remember that people are trying to lead them to believe that there are other treasures of wisdom... plausible philosophies.
    2. Truly understanding who Christ is protects us from plausible arguments.

- c. Paul restates his heart that though he is absent from them, he is present in spirit.
  - i. He delights in the order they have
  - ii. He encourages the firmness of their faith

### **3. Paul's Charge to the Colossians Colossians 2:6-7**

- a. Walk in Him
  - i. Just like you started... continue
  - ii. The gospel is how we are saved, and it's how we are changed day by day into the image of God.
  - iii. First Love. Interesting the reference to Laodemia in these verses.
- b. Rooted and built up in Him
  - i. Rooted - Psalm 1
  - ii. Rooted - John 15:1-4
- c. Built up
  - i. Foundation is Jesus Christ
  - ii. Building your house upon the rock
- d. Walk in faith
- e. Walk in Gratitude