

Colossians 2:1-3

### **Suffering to fill up what is lacking v24**

Paul suffered greatly for the church and he rejoiced as he did so.

### **Stewardship of the mystery v25-27**

Paul became a minister...a servant of the King with a stewardship (management) in the Kingdom for the benefit, not of himself, but for the church. His goal was to fully carry out the preaching of the word: that is the mystery of Christ in us, the hope of glory.

### **Striving for their completion v28-29**

Paul was laboring and striving to...

1. Admonish every man
2. Teach every man
3. Present every man complete in Christ

### **Struggling for their encouragement v1-3**

In his struggle for their encouragement, he gives us some insight on what is really encouraging to true believers.

#### **I. Hearts knit together in Love**

1. Having been knit together in love
  - a. Love is one thing
  - b. But being knit together in love...That's another.
2. I don't doubt that the people in this congregation love one another. That is good.
3. But Paul goes beyond that...he says what is encouraging, is for them to be "knit together" in love.

People in the world can walk together in love, but we are to be knit together in love

1. Colossians 2:19
2. like we are knit together in Christ, we are knit together with one another in love

What keeps our hearts from being knit together in love?

#### **A. Being Offended**

1. We live in a day where everyone is offended by something
2. But if we are honest, there are times when we are exactly the same as believers
3. We must learn to overlook people and their offensiveness!
4. Proverbs 19:11 *Good sense makes one slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an*

*offense.*

## B. Un-forgiveness

1. When we fail to overlook offenses, we soon find ourselves offended to the point that we refuse to forgive.
2. This is a dangerous place to be
  - a. Matthew 6:12 *and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.*
  - b. Matthew 18:21-35

## C. Bitterness

1. When offenses turn to un-forgiveness...un-forgiveness turns to bitterness
2. Hebrews 12:14-15 *Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no "root of bitterness" springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled*

As believers, we have been knit together in love by Christ...but we must be careful to remain in that way.

1. overlook offenses
2. forgive others as we would want God to forgive us
3. uproot any and all bitterness as soon as it is identified.

## II. Hearts pursuing treasure

The believer is encouraged by attaining to riches and wealth...to great treasure

1. This is not the kind of wealth the TV preachers push folks to pursue
2. It is not the kind of wealth that the American dream puts before us
3. It is an eternal wealth that exceeds anything we can imagine here on earth!

### A. This wealth comes from full assurance

1. Paul tells us that this wealth comes from the full assurance of understanding
2. Do you have assurance?
3. This assurance comes from understanding
  - a. It is not based upon your performance
  - b. It is based upon Christ's work on the cross
  - c. Rest in that!
4. Do you have the assurance that comes from really understanding the gospel
5. THE GOSPEL
6. John 10:27-29 *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.*
7. If you struggle with assurance, read 1 John
8. a. 1 John 5:13 *I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.*

### B. This assurance results in true knowledge

1. Paul wrote, "resulting in a true knowledge of God's mystery."
2. What is God's mystery? He tells us. Christ!
3. Colossians 1:27

**C. This knowledge reveals to us great treasure v3**

1. It is in Christ that all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden.
2. Matthew 13:44-47
3. Do you have this treasure???
  - a. If he is our treasure, we will find that our conflicts with others diminish and we are knit together in love
  - b. If He is our treasure, we will find that we have assurance of salvation and our doubts are dispelled
  - c. If He is our treasure, we will find that Christ in us is a reality and religion and legalism diminish
  - d. If He is our treasure the things of this world grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace.
  - e. If He is your treasure, be encouraged!

**Conclusion:** Is He your treasure? I did not ask have you gone through the SBC motions...but is Christ Your treasure? If not....THE GOSPEL