

# A Firm Faith

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Colossians 2:1-5

February 14, 2016

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## **Colossians 2:1-5**

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.

Colossian 1:28,29

“So, naturally, we proclaim Christ. We warn everyone we meet, and we teach everyone we can, all that we know about Him, so that, if possible, we may bring every man up to his full maturity in Christ. That is what I am working at all the time, with all the strength that God gives me.” JB Phillips

# Outline of the text

1. A great struggle (2:1)
2. A great prayer (2:2)
3. A great mystery (2:2b – 3)
4. A great concern (2:4)
5. A firm faith (2:5)

# 1. A Great Struggle (2:1)

**2:1 - 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,**

Romans 15:30- I appeal to you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf,

- The great conflict is on behalf of people in a church he had never met!

## 2. A Great Prayer (2:2)

2:2 - 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,

“**Gnosticism** is a heresy which is made up of a diverse set of beliefs...based on gnosis [secret knowledge], or knowledge arrived at by way of internal, intuitive means. [Gnostics] relied on personal religious experience as its primary authority. Theopedia Definition

- Matter – evil
- God – far removed
- Humanity – trapped
- Salvation – escape
- Jesus – not God in the flesh
- Happy saints, in loving fellowship with one another, would be a solid defense against the false doctrine of Gnosticism.

### 3. A Great Mystery (2:2b-3)

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.

- the truth of the church (Ch. 1:24 – “for the sake of his body, the church.”)
- Key point: If Christ is the head of the church, they will not be drawn away.
- You don't need to go beyond what is written in Scripture.



## 4. A Great Concern (2:4)

- **2:4 - I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments.**
- As Christians, because all wisdom and knowledge are in Christ, we should not be deluded with plausible arguments or persuasive words.
- The truth is its own best argument!

## 5. A firm faith (2:5)

- 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.



## 5. A firm faith (2:5)

- 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.
- The Colossians were standing true to the Word of God
- Application
  - Be bright lights!
  - Stand Strong!
  - Lean on Jesus!

