



## “How Great a Struggle”

Colossians 2:1-5

January 14, 2022

### Questions for Application and Fellowship

#### MY STORY

1. Have you ever been gold prospecting? On any kind of treasure hunt?

#### QUICK REVIEW

Awaiting trial before Caesar in Rome, Paul is on house arrest. He receives a visit from one of his former students, Epaphras, who had planted the church in Colossae. Epaphras brings a glowing report of the church’s faithfulness and the report of false teaching infecting this small city. Paul writes to fortify the church with a clear, accurate view of the supremacy and the sufficiency of Christ Jesus for life and salvation. He does so with a tone of great joy and gratitude for this small church family.

Having presented a clear picture of the supremacy and sufficiency of Christ, Paul informs the Colossians how greatly he struggles to get this across to all the churches he is related to. Even though Paul did not plant the Colossian church, he knows of them and is vitally concerned for their endurance in the sufficiency of Christ. In Christ are found all the treasures of spiritual wisdom and understanding.

- A. Why was Paul struggling so greatly? (v.4)

1. *The world is filled with falsehood that compels.*

- B. What was Paul struggling for? (Vv. 2-3)

1. *He was laboring for encouraged hearts in the churches.*
2. *He was laboring for loving unity in the churches.*
3. *He was laboring for full assurance in the churches.*

Was any point in this weekend’s message or portion of Scripture particularly challenging, encouraging or helpful for you?

Why did God want you to hear this message now?

## DIGGING DEEPER

1. Christians are to be discerning of “plausible arguments.” What are they? What are some examples that come to mind in our context?
2. The Colossian Christians would have all been first generation believers, the first in their families to follow Jesus Christ. In view of this reality, what challenges might they have faced? Why was it so important that their hearts be encouraged? What factors in the lives of your circle of fellowship might stress the need for hearts to be encouraged by the community of believers?
3. What does having our hearts “knit together in love” mean? How does Colossians 3:12-18 provide a picture of what it looks like? How can you include others in this fabric of Christian love?
4. At the heart of Paul’s struggle for the churches was the desire for believers to have assurance in Christ. Assurance of the supremacy of Christ and the sufficiency of His grace also strengthen us against the pull of plausible arguments. Have you ever struggled with the matter of assurance? Reading verses 2-3 carefully, where is assurance for the believer to be found?