

Colossians 1:29-2:3

Fully Mature, Fully Assured

Col 1:27-29 ESV To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. 28 Him we proclaim, ***warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature***[NIV fully mature]..... in Christ. 29 For this I toil, ***struggling***[NIV contending]with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

Col 2:1-4 ESV For I want you to know ***how great a struggle***[NIV how hard I am contending] I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face, 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,*** 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. 4 I say this in order **that no one may delude you with plausible arguments.**

Paul is STRUGGLING [or contending]

DEFINITION= **to struggle**, literally (to compete for a prize) - figuratively (to contend with an adversary) or generally (to endeavor to accomplish something)

DEFINITION=**contend**, a contest, a fight, a race

WARNING & TEACHING

The source of warning and teaching is the word of Christ [in Him are all treasures of wisdom and knowledge]

- Col 3:16 ESV Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, **teaching and admonishing** one another ***in all wisdom***, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

The PURPOSE

1. **Col 1:28** To present everyone **FULLY MATURE** in Christ (complete, fully grown, perfect)
 - a. Eph 4:13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and **become mature**, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.
2. **Col 2:2** To reach **FULL ASSURANCE** of understanding and knowledge of God's mystery - which is CHRIST

Epaphras had a similar heart

3. Col 4:12 NIV Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always ***wrestling*** in prayer[same as contending or struggling above].....for you, that you may **stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured.**

Maturing in Christ - **PURSUIT OF "CHRIST IN ME"**

Define the term -- What do we mean by mature/perfect/complete?

Eph 4:13-15 NIV until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole ***measure of the fullness of Christ***.

How do I know I am Maturing in Christ?

I am becoming more Christ-like in their relationships and action

- Mat 5:44-48 NIV But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? 47 And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? 48 **Be perfect**, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

I remove whatever stands in the way of my following Christ

- Mat 19:21 ESV Jesus said to him [*the rich young ruler*], "If you would be **perfect**, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me."

I seek to conform to the will of God rather than the pattern of the world

- Rom 12:2 NIV Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and **perfect** will.

I am becoming skillful in the use of God's word - one who has been taught and able to teach

- Heb 5:12-14 NIV In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! 13 Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. 14 But solid food is for the **mature**, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

I understand the purpose of trials and endure them with perseverance and joy

- Jas 1:2-4 NIV Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be **mature** and complete, not lacking anything.

I am gaining a handle on my mouth

- Jas 3:2 NIV We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is **perfect**, able to keep their whole body in check.

FULL ASSURANCE

Full Assurance - means certainty --- same word as used here Rom 4:21 NIV being **fully persuaded** that God had power to do what he had promised.

Col 2:1-4 (AMP) [For my concern is] that their **hearts may be braced** (comforted, cheered, and encouraged) as they are **knit together in love**, that they may come to have all the abounding wealth and blessings of **assured conviction** of understanding, and that they may become progressively more intimately acquainted with and may know more definitely and accurately and thoroughly that mystic secret of God, [which is] **Christ** (the Anointed One).³ In Him **all the treasures of [divine] wisdom (comprehensive insight into the ways and purposes of God) and [all the riches of spiritual] knowledge** and enlightenment are stored up and lie hidden.⁴ I say this in order **that no one may mislead and delude** you by plausible and persuasive and attractive arguments and beguiling speech.

Three Things He Desires for Them - in order that no one misleads or deludes

An encouraged heart (1 Th 3:2-3)

- 1Th 3:2-3 NIV We sent Timothy...to **strengthen and encourage** you in your faith

Knit Together in Love - 1 Cor 13

Assured Conviction

- Christ - who he is what he has done...in HIM ALL treasures of wisdom and knowledge

Here are some of the potential areas of deception he was addressing

Col 2:4 ESV I say this in order **that no one may delude you with plausible arguments.**

Col 2:8 ESV See to it that **no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit**, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.

Col 2:16 ESV Therefore let **no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink**, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath.

Col 2:18 ESV **Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels**, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind

Pursue Maturity in Christ - Let Christ IN ME be LIVED THROUGH ME

Are you FULLY ASSURED in your understanding and knowledge of Christ?

- Convinced that All Treasures of Wisdom are found in Him?
- Wisdom about life, worldview, about all things?

Does Your Heart Need Encouraged? GK parakaleō to call near, that is, invite, invoke (by imploration, exhort or console) - The Holy Spirit is the great paraclete

Do you need to be KNIT TOGETHER in LOVE - Compacted?

