

## Introduction

Last week we looked at Paul's motivation to minister. Paul rejoiced in his sufferings for the Colossians. He was willing to do whatever it took to fulfill his ministry. We saw that Paul was motivated to be a faithful steward. He had a stewardship of God's word, and he had a stewardship of the churches that he oversaw. Paul did not take his stewardship lightly, and was willing to endure suffering to be a good steward.

We also have a stewardship. We saw in 1 Peter 4:10 that **we are to be good stewards of our gifts**. We have a stewardship of the precious gifts and callings that God has given each of us. The gifts are to be employed in serving one another. The context of that is the local church.

We are actually stewards of many things. All of us have been given the same amount of time each day. **We are to be good stewards of our time**. Moses understood this, and prayed in Psalm 90, "so teach us to number our days, that we may present to You a heart of wisdom." He wanted to use his time on earth wisely.

(Psa 90:12) So teach us to number our days, That we may present to You a heart of wisdom.

**We are to be good stewards of our finances**. (See Luke 16:1-13.) Whether you make very little money, or whether you have a big income, you are stewards of your finances. It all belongs to God. We are just managers or stewards of His money. He tells us in His word how to use a portion of it, and He gives us freedom on how to manage the rest of it. As a church, we want to help people learn how to manage their money. We are stewards of spiritual gifts, time, money, children, and many things. We want to be a church of good stewards that are trustworthy.

Paul was also motivated to be faithful to the vision that he had received. The Lord had plans for Paul, long before Paul knew about those plans. God had prepared Paul for the special work that he was to do. God gave him the Jewish parents, the Roman citizenship, the personality-type, and drive to accomplish the work he was to do. Paul was also given the education and training as a Pharisee, which would prove very valuable in writing most of the New Testament.

God communicated that vision at the time of his salvation. Paul was to be a special instrument and was being sent to the Gentiles. Paul knew and understood who God had called him to be, and the work he was called to do. Paul was an apostle to the Gentiles, and he wanted to present every man complete in Christ. In order to carry out the vision, Paul had specific activities that were necessary to fulfill the vision. Paul proclaimed Christ, and admonished and taught men. These same activities are things that we must do to see every man complete or mature. We must be a church of proclaimers. And, we must be a church that disciplines and teaches people to walk in God's ways.

Our text today is Colossians 2:1-7. I have titled the message, "Paul's Encouragement to the Colossians." In our passage today, Paul gives three encouragements to the Colossians. He encourages them by telling them that he is with them. Second, he encourages them to be firmly rooted and established in their faith. Third, he encourages them to walk in Christ. Paul understood the importance of encouragement. He was constantly encouraging the churches. People need encouragement. When we come to church, we need encouragement. We also need to consider how to stimulate one another and encourage one another. Let's learn to be a church of encouragers.

## 06 Colossians 2:1-7 Paul's Encouragement to the Colossians

Paul's encouragement was not just to the Colossians, but it was also for the Laodiceans. Paul also mentions it was for all who have not personally seen his face. This was a home church, and in small churches everyone seems to know everyone. Even though Paul did not plant the church, he knew many of the folks. Paul wrote a letter to Philemon, who was from Colossae. Paul calls him a beloved brother and fellow worker. Paul not only knew Philemon, but loved him, and respected him as a fellow worker.

The letter to Philemon was about Onesimus, his runaway slave that Paul led to the Lord while in prison. Paul was restoring Onesimus to Philemon, not just as a slave, but now as a brother. Paul asks Philemon to forgive Onesimus of any wrong and charge it to Paul's account. In a humorous way, Paul also tells Philemon that he is returning Onesimus, who is useful... The name Onesimus meant useless, and Paul is making a play on words. We see Paul's dry sense of humor in those comments.

Paul also addressed the letter of Philemon to Archippus and Apphia. It appears that he knew both of them. In Colossians 4:17, Paul exhorts Archippus to take heed to the ministry which he had received from the Lord, and to fulfill it. Apphia was probably Archippus' wife, but we do not know that for certain. Paul seemed very familiar with both of them.

(Philemon 1:1-2) "Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our beloved brother and fellow worker, {2} and to Apphia our sister, and to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house."

(Col 4:17) Say to Archippus, "Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it."

In addition to these households, Paul is with Epaphras when he writes this letter. Epaphras is identified by Paul as being one of their number. On a side note, what church family would you be identified with? There is a tendency today to go to several churches, but not to be a member of any of them. Paul identifies Epaphras as being one of their number. Epaphras was a member of the church in Colossae, and was sent out from them.

(Col 4:12) "Epaphras, who is one of your number, a bonds slave of Jesus Christ, sends you his greetings, always laboring earnestly for you in his prayers, that you may stand perfect and fully assured in all the will of God."

Let's read our text for today.

(Col 2:1-7) "For I want you to know how great a struggle I have on your behalf and for those who are at Laodicea, and for all those who have not personally seen my face, {2} that their hearts may be encouraged, having been knit together in love, and attaining to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, resulting in a true knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ Himself, {3} in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. {4} I say this so that no one will delude you with persuasive argument. {5} For even though I am absent in body, nevertheless I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good discipline and the stability of your faith in Christ. {6} Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, {7} having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude."

## 1. Encouragement that he is with them

Paul's first encouragement to the Colossians and Laodiceans is that he is with them. **Paul had a great struggle on their behalf.** He is battling on their behalf. He is fighting and contending on their behalf. Last week I read out of 2 Corinthians about all the struggles that Paul has endured. He was beaten times without number, received thirty-nine lashes five times from the Jews, beaten with rods three times, stoned once, shipwrecked three times, and imprisoned several times. Paul has experienced physical suffering in the battle on their behalf.

(Col 2:1-2) "For I want you to know how great a struggle I have on your behalf and for those who are at Laodicea, and for all those who have not personally seen my face, {2} that their hearts may be encouraged..."

In chapter one, Paul prayed for the Colossians. Part of the struggle or battle is in prayer and intercession. Paul was continually praying for them. He said, "we give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying ALWAYS for you. Paul was always praying for them. He was always lifting them up in prayer. He was doing spiritual battle for them and on their behalf. **Paul was with them in prayer.**

(Col 1:3) We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,

In Paul's letter to the Ephesians, he talks about spiritual warfare. He tells them to put on the full armor of God, so that they would be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. He continues, "for our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

(Eph 6:11-12) Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. {12} For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

For this reason, Paul ends by telling them with all prayer and petition pray at all times in the spirit. Many times the way that we war against the devil is by prayer. It is not the only way, but it is one of the primary ways. Paul was always praying for the churches that he was giving apostolic oversight.

(Eph 6:18) With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,

I believe this is relevant. I believe that our church is also fighting against powers, world forces of darkness, and spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. I believe God is calling our church to step up our prayer and warfare. John Dean is coming here the first weekend in October. He will be leading a workshop on spiritual warfare and prayer on Friday, October 4. It is a very timely workshop for our body.

Paul is struggling and contending in the flesh, and he is also contending in the Spirit. He is fighting on behalf of the Colossians. He wants them to know that he is with them in this battle.

In Proverbs 30, Solomon writes that there are three things stately in their march and four which are stately when they walk. The first thing he mentions is a lion, which is mighty among beasts, and does not retreat before any. The second is the strutting rooster. Karen and I have had hens and roosters for many years. Some of our roosters were as mean as could be. They would attack our children. The Rhode Island Red rooster we had here in New Mexico would also attack. I would not go into the coop without a stick to protect myself. Size did not matter; he would attack. He would also not retreat before any, which was his downfall. His end came when he attacked our dog. The dog won that battle, and I no longer have to worry about being attacked.

(Pro 30:29-31) There are three things which are stately in their march, Even four which are stately when they walk: {30} The lion which is mighty among beasts And does not retreat before any, {31} The strutting rooster, the male goat also, And a king when his army is with him.

The third thing Solomon mentions is a male goat. The male goat does not retreat either, particular during rutting season. The final thing that Solomon mentions is a king when his army is with him. There is a confidence and boldness that all these things have in common. The lion, rooster, and male goat do not have a condition. The king has a condition. The king displays this confidence when his army is with him.

Paul tells the Colossians that he is with them. He is fighting the battle with them. He is contending for them. He wants them to be encouraged and confident because their army is with them.

In verse five, Paul lets them know another way that he is with them and for them. He says, "for even though I am absent in body, nevertheless I am with you in spirit." **Paul was with them in spirit.** I heard a prominent preacher say a few years ago in a small group DVD that we were going through at another church that your spirit is only where you are. He came against Christians who said that they were with you in spirit. Apparently this man of God, and he is a godly man, had not picked up what Paul said in this verse. He tells them that even though he is not with them physically, he is with them in spirit. It is just another way of letting them know that he is with them and for them.

(Col 2:5) "For even though I am absent in body, nevertheless I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good discipline and the stability of your faith in Christ.

When Joshua took over for Moses, the Lord tells him three times to be strong and courageous. On the third time, He says, "have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." God was encouraging Joshua by telling him that He is with him. One of the greatest sources of encouragement is to have someone with you at your side.

(Josh 1:9) "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

One day I was in my blue Ford pickup and was driving to the prison where I was one of the chaplains. I had carefully prepared a message to give that morning. On my way, I was using the forty minute drive to pray over the different men that I was going to be ministering to. As I prayed the Lord said, "Bill, it is not what you teach; it is being with them that means so much to them." I spent a lot of time in the pods with the men, and being with them and for them was a great encouragement.

## 2. Encouragement to be firmly rooted and established in their faith.

Paul's second encouragement to the Colossians was about being firmly rooted and established in their faith. In verse two, he mentions their hearts being encouraged and attaining to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding. Then, in verse seven, Paul mentions being firmly rooted and established in their faith. Paul is encouraging them that they are firmly rooted and established in their faith. There are several different dimensions to this. First, He says that they have been knit together in love. Second, he mentions attaining to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding. Third, he mentions the result of having this full assurance; it results in a true knowledge of God's mystery, that is Christ Himself, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

(Col 2:2-7) "that their hearts may be encouraged, having been knit together in love, and attaining to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, resulting in a true knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ Himself, {3} in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. {4} I say this so that no one will delude you with persuasive argument. {5} For even though I am absent in body, nevertheless I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good discipline and the stability of your faith in Christ. {6} Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, {7} having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude."

Paul mentions a result or benefit of having this full assurance. In verse four, he says "so that no one will delude you with persuasive argument. **One reason we need to be firmly rooted and established in our faith is so we won't be deceived by false teachers.** In two more weeks, we will pick up where we leave off today, and Paul exhorts them not to be taken captive through philosophy and empty deception.

(Col 2:4) "I say this so that no one will delude you with persuasive argument."

This week, I downloaded an article from the United States Secret Service. The article was called How To Detect Counterfeit Money. The main point of the article was to KNOW YOUR MONEY. They give five main criteria to know: Portrait, Federal Reserve and Treasure Seals, Border, Serial Numbers, and Paper. They say, "the public has a role in maintaining the integrity of U.S. currency. You can guard against the threat from counterfeiters by becoming more familiar with United States currency." They have pictures of the five different characteristics so that we can learn to distinguish between counterfeit and genuine money.

### ***How To Detect Counterfeit Money (United States Secret Service)***

*The public has a role in maintaining the integrity of U.S. currency. You can help guard against the threat from counterfeiters by becoming more familiar with United States currency.*

*Look at the money you receive. Compare a suspect note with a genuine note of the same denomination and series, paying attention to the quality of printing and paper characteristics. Look for differences, not similarities.*

**Portrait**

*The genuine portrait appears lifelike and stands out distinctly from the background. The counterfeit portrait is usually lifeless and flat. Details merge into the background which is often too dark or mottled.*

**Federal Reserve and Treasury Seals**

*On a genuine bill, the saw-tooth points of the Federal Reserve and Treasury seals are clear, distinct, and sharp. The counterfeit seals may have uneven, blunt, or broken saw-tooth points.*

**Border**

*The fine lines in the border of a genuine bill are clear and unbroken. On the counterfeit, the lines in the outer margin and scrollwork may be blurred and indistinct.*

**Serial Numbers**

*Genuine serial numbers have a distinctive style and are evenly spaced. The serial numbers are printed in the same ink color as the Treasury Seal. On a counterfeit, the serial numbers may differ in color or shade of ink from the Treasury seal. The numbers may not be uniformly spaced or aligned.*

**Paper**

*Genuine currency paper has tiny red and blue fibers embedded throughout. Often counterfeiters try to simulate these fibers by printing tiny red and blue lines on their paper. Close inspection reveals, however, that on the counterfeit note the lines are printed on the surface, not embedded in the paper. It is illegal to reproduce the distinctive paper used in the manufacturing of United States currency.*

This is the same principle that Paul is sharing with the Colossians. He says that they have a full assurance of understanding and true knowledge of God's mystery, Christ Himself. In chapter one, we took a look at Jesus, the reconciler. We saw that Jesus was God. "It was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him." We saw that Jesus was God, the Creator. We also saw that Jesus was Pre-Eminent. He was before all things. He is head over all things. He is the first born from the dead. The Colossians knew who Christ is. Therefore, in verse four he says, "I say this so that no one will delude you with persuasive argument." **We need to know the truth, so we can quickly discern and identify anything that is counterfeit or false.**

(Col 1:19) For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him,

Most cults and false religions do not teach the deity of Christ and the trinity. The Jehovah's witness say Jesus is the son of God, but do not say that He is God. The Mormons say Jesus is a god, but not God. The Way say that Jesus is a god, but not God. They also do not believe that the Holy Spirit is God. The Moslems say that Jesus is a prophet, but do not say that He is God. If we have a full knowledge of God's mystery, that is Christ, we will not be quickly deceived or led astray.

How do we get rooted and established in our faith? **We get rooted and established in our faith by spending time in His word.** His word is the primary way that we get to know God. We must spend time reading His word. We must spend time studying His word. We must spend time meditating on His word. We will gain lots of insights about God and His ways when we meditate on His word. We gain wisdom and understanding when we spend time in God's word.

**We get rooted and established in our faith by spending time in prayer.** As we spend time in praise and thanksgiving, calling out the names of God and the deeds of God, we become more deeply rooted and established in our faith.

**We get rooted and established in our faith by fellowshiping with others,** particularly in small groups. Let me encourage you to get involved in the small groups that we currently are running. For now, we are running a Ladies' Bible study, and a Men's Bible study.

**Spending time in the word, spending time in prayer, and fellowshiping with others are all disciplines of the faith.** Notice what Paul shares in verse five. "For though I am absent in body, nevertheless I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good discipline and the stability of your faith in Christ." Have good spiritual disciplines will not only help us get deeply rooted and established, they give us stability in our faith.

(Col 2:5) "For even though I am absent in body, nevertheless I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good discipline and the stability of your faith in Christ."

The root system of a tree do several things. First, the feeder roots allow the tree to absorb or take in the moisture from the ground. This happens through osmosis. According to Wikipedia, "Osmosis is responsible for the ability of plant roots to draw water from the soil. Since there are many fine roots, they have a large surface area, and water enters the roots by osmosis."

Second, the roots act as a storage system. They hold moisture for the tree. In the winter time, the sap drains down into the roots and it is stored there. The larger the root system, the more resistant to drought the tree becomes. Young trees need to be watered more frequently the first few years because they do not have the storage system in place to withstand longer times between being watered.

The third function of the roots is stability. Sometimes roots go out as far as one hundred feet away from the base of the tree. These large roots help prevent the tree from blowing over in storms. On my farm in Georgia, I picked an open area to plant a garden. I had a large commercial tiller and I set out to till up the plot. I hit lots of roots. There were no trees in the area. These roots were from trees that were growing a good distance away. I ended up using my large John Deere plowing tractor to remove all the roots from the garden plot. Then, I was able to use my tiller to break up and condition the soil. The point is that trees send out roots a long way, and one of the purposes is stability.

When we are rooted and established in our faith, we have stability. The way that we become rooted and established is through practicing good spiritual disciplines. When you faithfully have morning devotions, you are growing your root system. When you spend time in prayer, you are growing your root system. When you come to Ladies' Bible study, you are growing your root system. Paul is encouraging the Colossians and Laodicleans to get rooted and established in their faith.

Paul's first encouragement is that he is with them. He is fighting and struggling for them. He is contending for them in prayer. He is with them in spirit. Paul's second encouragement is for them to be firmly rooted and established in their faith. He says that they have already been knit together in love. He wants them to attain to the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding. He wants them to have a true knowledge of who Christ is. He wants them to be rooted and established so that they will not be deceived or led astray.

### 3. Encouragement to walk by faith

Paul's third encouragement is to walk in Christ the same way that they had received Him. This statement begs the question, "How do we receive Christ?"

Currently, the Men's Bible Study is studying the book of Romans. Greg Richard, who leads our Men's Ministry said that one of the deciding factors to study the book of Romans was the balance that it gave to the book of James. James tells us that a faith without works is dead. James' point is that when we receive Christ, our works should give evidence of our faith. If there are not changes in our life, if there is not repentance in our lives, then our faith is worthless. When someone comes to Christ, and places their faith in Christ, there will be changes that take place. There will be works that give evidence of that faith. **Our faith is to be evidenced by works.**

(James 2:14, 17) "What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him?....Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself."

The book of Romans tells us clearly that **we are saved by faith, not by works.** In Romans 3, Paul writes that we are justified by faith, apart from the works of the Law.

(Rom 3:28) "For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law."

In chapter four, he writes that the promise given to Abraham was while he was uncircumcised. This promise was not given through the Law, but by faith. Abraham's righteousness and salvation was by faith, not the works of the Law. In the same way, our righteousness comes by faith in Christ, not the works of the Law.

(Rom 4:13) For the promise to Abraham or to his descendants that he would be heir of the world was not through the Law, but through the righteousness of faith.

It is clear that we receive Christ by faith, and it is also clear that our faith is to produce a change in our lives. Our faith, according to James, should be evidenced by works. Those works do not save us, but they do bear witness of our faith.

One of the attacks on the gospel by the Judaizers was that men must be circumcised. They said that it was not merely be faith, but there were works, like circumcision, that also had to be done. Therefore, Paul addresses this false doctrine in many of his letters. In his letter to the Galatians, Paul calls this another gospel. He says that he is amazed that they are quickly deserting Christ who called us by grace for a different gospel. Then, he speaks about those who are disturbing them with a distorted gospel. He says if anyone preaches a different gospel, let him be accursed. The gospel message is by faith, not works. Anyone who preaches salvation by works is preaching a false gospel.



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(Gal 1:6-9) "I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; {7} which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. {8} But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! {9} As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!"

In Galatians 3, Paul writes, "you foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified? This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or be hearing with faith? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?"

(Gal 3:1-3) "You foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified? {2} This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith? {3} Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?"

In Paul's letter to the Ephesians, he writes, "for by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast."

(Eph 2:8-9) "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; {9} not as a result of works, so that no one may boast."

In Paul's letter to Titus, he addresses this same attack on the gospel. He writes, "He saved us, not on a basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit

(Titus 3:5) "He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,"

So, when Paul exhorts the Colossians to walk in the same way that they received Christ, he is telling them to walk by faith. They began by faith, and they are to continue to walk in faith. **We are to walk by faith.**

Paul concludes by telling them to be overflowing with gratitude. This is another aspect of walking in Christ. We walk by faith, and we walk with a grateful heart, that is overflowing with joy and thanksgiving.

(Col 2:6-7) "Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, {7} having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude."

A few weeks ago, we looked at why Paul was praying for them to know God's will. We saw that God's will for us is to be conformed to His image. He wants us to continually repent of things in our lives, and to be transformed to His image. When God reveals things in our lives, we are to confess our sins to God and to others. We are to apologize to others when we have wronged them. That is God's will for our lives.

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We also saw that it is God's will for us to rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and to give thanks in everything. **We are to be overflowing with gratitude.**

(1 Thess 5:16-18) "Rejoice always; {17} pray without ceasing; {18} in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

### **Conclusion**

Paul has encouraged the Colossians and Laodiceans by telling them that he is with them, that they are to be rooted and established in Christ, and they are to walk by faith, not by works. What about you this morning? Are you needing encouragement? Are you needing to know that someone is with you? Do you need someone to walk with you, pray with you, and contend with you? Are you facing things in your life that you want some encouragement and support. We have people who would love to pray for you this morning.

Are you looking for a church family to stand with you? If God has moved on your heart to become a part of the East Mountain Vineyard Church, to make this your church family, please let me know. We would love to have you join our family.

Are you needing to become more grounded in your faith? Are you needing to become more disciplined in your Christian walk? Let me encourage you to make a commitment this morning to have daily devotions. Let me encourage you to set a time each day to read the Scriptures, and to pray. Let me encourage you to get plugged in to the Men's Bible Study or the Ladies' Bible Study. God wants us to be rooted and established in our faith. Make that commitment this morning to the Lord.

Let's pray.

**Introduction** (Col 2:1-7, Phil 1:1-2, Col 4:12, 17)

- We are to be good stewards of our \_\_\_\_\_. (1 Pet 4:10)
- We are to be good stewards of our \_\_\_\_\_. (Psa 90:12)
- We are to be good stewards of our \_\_\_\_\_. (Luke 16:1-13)

**1. Encouragement that he is with them** (Pr 30:29-31)

- Paul had a great \_\_\_\_\_ on their behalf. (Col 2:1-2, 2 Cor 11)
- Paul was with them in \_\_\_\_\_. (Col 1:3, Eph 6:11-12, 18)
- Paul was with them in \_\_\_\_\_. (Col 2:5, Josh 1:9)

**2. Encouragement to be firmly rooted and established in their faith.**  
(Col 2:2-7)

- One reason we need to be firmly rooted and established in our faith is so we won't be \_\_\_\_\_ by false teachers. (Col 2:4)
- We need to know the \_\_\_\_\_, so we can quickly discern and identify anything that is counterfeit or false. (Col 1:19)
- We get rooted and established in our faith by spending time in His \_\_\_\_\_.
- We get rooted and established in our faith by spending time in \_\_\_\_\_.
- We get rooted and established in our faith by \_\_\_\_\_ with others.
- Spending time in the word, spending time in prayer, and fellowshiping with others are all \_\_\_\_\_ of the faith. (Col 2:5)

**3. Encouragement to walk by faith** (Col 2:6-7)

- Our faith is to be evidenced by \_\_\_\_\_. (James 2:14, 17)
- We are saved by \_\_\_\_\_, not by \_\_\_\_\_. (Rom 3:28, Rom 4:13, Gal 1:6-9, Gal 3:1-3, Eph 2:8-9, Titus 3:5)
- We are to walk by \_\_\_\_\_.
- We are to be overflowing with \_\_\_\_\_. (Col 2:6-7, 1 Thess 5:16-18)

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- We need to know the \_\_\_\_\_, so we can quickly discern and identify anything that is counterfeit or false. (Col 1:19)
- We get rooted and established in our faith by spending time in His \_\_\_\_\_.
- We get rooted and established in our faith by spending time in \_\_\_\_\_.
- We get rooted and established in our faith by \_\_\_\_\_ with others.
- Spending time in the word, spending time in prayer, and fellowshiping with others are all \_\_\_\_\_ of the faith. (Col 2:5)

**3. Encouragement to walk by faith** (Col 2:6-7)

- Our faith is to be evidenced by \_\_\_\_\_. (James 2:14, 17)
- We are saved by \_\_\_\_\_, not by \_\_\_\_\_. (Rom 3:28, Rom 4:13, Gal 1:6-9, Gal 3:1-3, Eph 2:8-9, Titus 3:5)
- We are to walk by \_\_\_\_\_.
- We are to be overflowing with \_\_\_\_\_. (Col 2:6-7, 1 Thess 5:16-18)