



Main Idea: If we want to walk in Him, we must keep growing, watch out for pitfalls, and never forget that Jesus is everything.

Key Scriptures: Colossians 2:1-15, Hebrews 6:1, John 8:44

Welcome

Hey guys! Welcome to [Your Church Name]. If you're visiting today, I'm excited and grateful you chose to spend your time with us.

For those of you that don't know me, my name is [Your Name] and I'm the [Your Position] here at [Your Church], and I'm so excited that you're here. I know you could have chosen to be anywhere doing any number of things today but you chose to be here, and I'm grateful.

As I was preparing for the lesson this week, I came across an interesting story that will serve as a good jumping off point for what God has in store for us today.

Introduction

A long time ago, in a galaxy far far away... (just kidding) there was a minister who found himself in an unlikely place: a heated courtroom battle. This pastor lived in a community where an unsavory business—one that promoted wickedness and threatened the moral fabric of the neighborhood—was attempting to open its doors directly across from the local elementary school and just down the street from his church.

This pastor didn't just pray in his closet; he stood up. He organized, he protested, and eventually, he testified. During the cross-examination, the defense attorney, aiming to paint the pastor as a meddling agitator who had lost his way, sneered at him from the lectern.

"Sir," the attorney began, "doesn't the word 'Pastor' literally translate to 'Shepherd'?"

"It does," the pastor replied calmly.

"Then tell me, sir," the attorney continued, "why aren't you out in the fields taking care of the sheep? Why are you here in this courtroom, making trouble?"

The pastor leaned forward, locked eyes with the attorney, and said, ***"Today, sir, I'm fighting the wolves."***

Go ahead and turn in your Bibles to Colossians Chapter 2. Before we begin, it's important to know that in Colossians 2 we are stepping into a moment where the Apostle Paul did exactly what that pastor in the story did.

Paul was a shepherd. He loved the flock. But in this letter, he put his staff aside for a moment to take up the sword of the Spirit. He fought the wolves that threatened to devour a young, vulnerable church.

Today, we are going to try to understand what it means to walk with Christ. The Christian life is not a stagnant pool; it is a river that must flow. It is not a finished monument; it is a building under construction. Paul's message to us today is simple yet urgent: keep your head on a swivel, keep your feet moving forward, and never forget who won the war.

Lesson

Paul began this chapter by pulling back the curtain on his own heart.

Colossians 2:1 (ESV)

"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..."

The Greek word Paul used for "struggle" is *agon*. It's where we get our English word "agony." Paul was in a Roman prison, likely chained to a guard, yet his primary "agony" wasn't his physical confinement. It was his spiritual concern for people he had never even met.

He mentioned Laodicea, a neighboring church that, as history tells us in the book of Revelation, would eventually become "lukewarm." Paul saw the seeds of that spiritual apathy even then.

Paul's true heart, the heart of a pastor, was one that anguished over the success of his students. Why? Because Paul knew that the moment a Christian stopped struggling to grow, they start to slide.

He transitioned from his own struggle for them to the struggles they would face. He wanted their hearts to be encouraged, knit together in love, and that they would reach for the full assurance of understanding. He wanted them to realize that if they walked in Christ—and Christ alone—they would have all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Not some. Not the "basic" ones. All of them.

Struggle 1: The Necessity of Spiritual Progress (2:4-7)

The first great struggle we face in a non-Christian world is the struggle to keep making spiritual progress. There is a fundamental fact of the spiritual life that we must confront: **every single day, you are either getting closer to God or you are moving farther away from Him.**

In physics, this is called the Second Law of Thermodynamics. This law tells us that in any closed system, the net entropy—or disorder—increases over time. If you buy a brand-new car and park it in a field, and you return twenty years later, that car won't have improved. The engine won't have become more efficient. The paint would not become glossier. Left to its own devices, the car will rot. It rusts. It moves toward chaos.

Your soul is no different. If you are not intentionally feeding your spirit, if you are not intentionally progressing in your walk with Christ, you are, by default, going backwards. This is why the writer of Hebrews plead to the readers, and for us...

Hebrews 6:1 (ESV)

"Let us leave the elementary doctrines of Christ and go on to maturity."

A Christian who is not making spiritual progress is a Christian who has left their flank exposed to the enemy.

Colossians 2:4 (ESV)

Paul warned...

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