

# The Treasure of Thanksgiving

## Colossians 2:1-8

Just imagine that you have found a treasure chest on an island and every time you open the treasure chest you realize just how thankful you are for those items in the chest. This treasure is Jesus Christ and the jewels within this treasure are the items of thanksgiving you have towards Him. He specifically states in Matthew 6:21 ***“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”*** I believe what Paul is doing is encouraging a people who are bombarded by false teaching. He wants their gratitude for Jesus Christ to be the treasure that carries them forward.

**The Jewel of Encouragement (Colossians 2:1-3)** Allow me to define gratitude. Gratitude is the state of thankfulness. When we are walking in a constant state of thankfulness in our relationship with Christ, we look different! We act different! When you are encouraging someone in Christ, you showing that someone their value to Christ and for Christ! I don't know the full extent of the struggle that Paul had for the church and for those in Laodicea. We know from chapter 4 verses 10 and 18 that Paul is in prison as he writes this letter, so this could really stand to mean for the rest of the church, Jesus is worthy of our struggles and sufferings. Why is this? Paul answers this in verse 2 ***“that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding...”*** When we go through anything hard together, we are bond together! When we struggle and suffer for others for the sake of Christ, we are encouraged by our hearts becoming knit together! I suffered with the people of Bethel Baptist Church in Franklinton La. during Hurricane Katrina, and felt knit together with them. Ministry is heartbreak warfare and the only ones who can wade through the trenches are the wounded and hurt. The difference in the service of Christ is that the wounded and hurt are not victims (Satan wants to paralyze us to be). No, the wounded and hurt are victorious through Christ! Paul's struggles encourage the thankful, those who share in gratitude towards Christ! Our treasure is encouragement! (Ephesians 5:4) ***“Let there be no filthiness, nor silly talk, nor levity, which are not fitting; but instead let there be thanksgiving.”***

The way to be assured of the understanding of Jesus Christ, the treasure chest of wisdom, is to have your heart knit together in love with other believers. The deepest and most certain insights into the character of God and the wisdom of God come into heads that are attached to loving hearts. That is why the ministry of encouragement is one of the most important ministries we can receive and give with thankfulness. Look around, this room is full of cheerleaders, who want to see you finish well and strong! (Hebrews 10:24-25) ***“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet***

***together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”***

**The Gem of an Established Faith (Colossians 2:4-7)** Next to encouragement, we can fight doubt and despair with an active established faith. A “daily walking with Christ faith.” Paul’s primary concern for the Colossian church was that they continue to grow in faith in Jesus Christ! The best defense is a great offense in this case, to grow in Christ! Three things shine light on this treasure of thanksgiving of an established faith.

- According to verse 6, they had already received Christ, “as you received...continue.” Reflect on receiving Christ and be thankful! Now, grow in Him! How, through the Word, through Prayer, through encouragement from the people of God.
- Secondly, verse 7 notes that they were established, “rooted and built up in him...strengthened in the faith.” Be thankful for an established faith! If you have a desire for the things of Christ, rejoice! If you don’t pray for them! Pray for a desire for the Word, to study it, to listen to preaching, to learn and be encouraged, to live it! Be thankful!
- Third, verse 7 conveys that the Colossians were “abounding in thanksgiving.” May that be said of us! May that be said of Oak Hill Baptist Church, that they are established in the faith, loving God and loving people and are abounding in thanksgiving!

**The Diamond of Endurance in Christ (Colossians 2:8)** The number one way to not be taken captive is to be in a constant state of gratitude for Christ! Endure! How, 1. be encouraged knit together, (the Church). 2. Be established in the faith, serve in the church. 3. Endure by spreading the encourage and faith of Jesus Christ. (Matthew 24:10-14) ***“And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. 11 And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. 12 And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. 13 But the one who endures to the end will be saved. 14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”*** It’s not that they have lost their salvation, they were never truly in Christ to begin with.

Let’s be thankful for everything that Jesus Christ has done! Let’s encourage one another, let’s grow in an established faith, and let’s endure for the cause and sake of Jesus Christ!