

## When There's Danger Ahead, Colossians 2:1-10 – June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019

- I want to talk with you about knowing and heeding the warning of danger ahead in the life of a Christian and the life of a church.
- This because, the Apostle Paul is warning the Colossian Christians whom he loved very much even though he never met them.
- It's interesting that the Greek word for contending (*agon*), in verse one is where we get our English word for agony or agonizing.

Galatians 4:19 - My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you,

Acts 20:29–31 - I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. 30 Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. 31 So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.

- I suppose the question that needs to be asked is what is causing Paul so much agony, pain and weeping over all the churches.
- Answer, Paul knows that whenever there's a move of God, blessed of God, Satan will unleash his demons in order to derail it.
- In the case of the Colossians, it was the false teaching of Gnosticism, which taught that knowledge was necessary for salvation.

As one commentator explained it, "Paul wrote because there were problems among the Christians in Colossae, but the doctrinal problem—sometimes described as 'The Colossian Heresy'—is difficult to precisely describe. It probably was a corruption of Christianity with elements of mystical and legalistic Judaism perhaps combined with early Gnosticism."

- The reason I point this out is because not much has changed some two thousand years later as it relates to Christians today.
- If you were to ask me what I thought was one of the greatest dangers facing the church today this would be at the top of the list.
- Namely, when Satan fails to keep us from coming to Christ he does everything and stops at nothing to pull us away from Christ.

- For the Colossians it was this persuasive and pervasive false teaching, but he uses any means to accomplish the same end.
- Whether it's prosperity or adversity, busyness or idleness, or everything and anything in between, that is the goal of the enemy.
- It's for this reason that Paul says to them in verse two that his goal is that they would be encouraged in heart and united in love.

- He then goes on to explain how they can reach this goal, which is what I want to look at for the remainder of our time together.
- First, notice in verse six where Paul says as we have received Christ Jesus as Lord, we're to continue to live our lives in Him.
- What Paul is saying is in order to heed the warning and not fall prey to the enemy's tactics; we must keep living for the Lord.

- The second way for us to reach this goal is in verse seven and it's that of being deeply rooted: in order to be equally built up.
- The reason I say it that way is because proportionate to how deep down our roots go is how high up we can then be built up.
- It's because there is no deep root system in our Christian lives that it's just a matter of time before we will be brought down.

- There's a third way also in verse seven, and I'll close with this one, however, it can be easily overlooked when one first reads it.
- It's where Paul tells them to remain strengthened in the faith as they were taught, and to also be overflowing with thankfulness.
- I would suggest that when we are overflowing with thankfulness we're strengthened in our faith and not be vulnerable to a fall.