“Christ-Centered Assurance in Christian Ministry”

Colossians 2:1-5 Sunday November 26, 2023

## INTRODUCTION READ Colossians 2:1-23 [Pew Bible pg. 983]

“The Sufficiency of Christ: Christianity Centered in Christ”

### Pray to See Christ More Clearly (Doctrine) . . . Love Christ More Dearly (Devotion)

###  . . . Follow Christ More Nearly (Duty)

Sufficiency of The Person and Work of Christ In All Christians Examined

Complete in Christ **2:4-7, 8-12, 17, 19** “Christ . . . in Him . . .with Him”

 His Is Lord of Salvation and Lord of the Christian Chapter Two

 “which I Paul was made a minister” cf. 1:7, 23, 25 *diakonos*

generally of a person who renders helpful service *servant, helper*

 faithful minister and faithful ministry

“Christ-Centered Service in Gospel Ministry” 1:24-27

“Christ-Centered Practice in Discipleship Ministry” 1:28-29

1. Present Ministry Because of Christ for His church 2:1

 What He Wants Them to Know That Christ Is Worth It

1. Sustained Ministry Means Great Effort & Much Work for Others

“For I want you to understand how great a struggle I have . . .”

“how strenuous are my exertions for you” cf. 1:29; 4:12 athletic contest

concentrated and sustained effort DEDICATION his efforts on their behalf

1. Sacrificial Ministry Means Deep Love & Wide Care of Others

and for those who are at Laodicea, cf. 4:13-16

and for all those who have not seen my face in the flesh,

1. Present Knowledge of Christ for The Church

What He Desires Them to Understand And Every Christian 2:2-5

1. Present Christian Knowledge Produces Encouraged Hearts 2:2-3

“so that their hearts may be encouraged . . .” DESIRE cf. 4:7-8

not a superficial level of concern for them as believers “strong in heart”

does not mean the physical not important but the spiritual most important

1. Learning United In Love Together With Others cf. 1:4; 2:19; 3:14

 “having been held together in love . . .” together with believers

 Affirmed in Love action, decision, intention

1. Understanding of What Is Ours With Full Assurance

 even unto **all** the wealth of the full assurance of understanding,

 unto the full knowledge of God’s mystery, *that is*, Christ

 Anchored in Truth

1. Discovering of What Is His With All Wisdom and Knowledge

in whom are hidden **all** the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

 remember 1:14 remember 1:9

men are so excited about their own knowledge and giving it to exclusive ones of their choosing making claim to special rights and privileges of knowing cf. 1:9

Christians ought to be excited to speak forth about Christ revealing to others all of the wisdom and knowledge found in Christ as His church & we as Christians

 READ Colossians 2:6-7

1. Present Christian Knowledge Protects Embattled Believers 2:4-5
2. Knowing There Are Persuasive Words of Men Among Them

 “I say this so that no one will delude you with persuasive argument.”

“warning against the possibility of being deceived” cf. James 1:22

with false arguments, false language “deceived by using trickery and falsehood”

1. Understanding These Are Encouraging Words of Paul for Them

 your good order and the stability of your faith in Christ. Cf. 1:4, 23

 Again READ Colossians 2:6-7 solidarity of formation

CONCLUSION Christ-Centered Assurance in Christian Ministry

1. Christ is worth great effort & much work on behalf of others for Him
2. Having concern for the church so that Christ is made known in this church
3. Ministering so that the hearts of others may be encouraged in Christ
4. Abandoning other sources of spiritual knowledge apart from Christ
5. Encouraging others in their faith in Christ through your words about Christ