

STANDING FIRM in CHRIST

Colossians 2:1-5

Introduction

Winning and teamwork go together.

Paul wrote this letter to encourage the church to stand firm in Christ. He wanted them to know that he was standing with them in prayer.

Paul had never met them, yet he was committed to praying for them.

Paul was in prison when he wrote this letter. Acts 28:30-31

Paul prayed for encouragement, unity and wisdom.

I. We need encouragement. Verse 2

The word encourage means to give courage, hope or confidence.

In Greek, it is the word parakaleo which means to come alongside to help.

It is the name that Jesus gives to the Holy Spirit in John 14:26 and 15:26. He is called the Comforter or Counselor.

Encouragement is one of the ways that we minister to one another.

"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching."
Hebrews 10:25

“One of the highest of human duties is the duty of encouragement. It is easy to laugh at men’s ideals; it is easy to pour cold water on their enthusiasm; it is easy to discourage others. The world is full of discouragers. We have a Christian duty to encourage one another. Many a time a word of thanks or praise or appreciation or cheer has kept a man on his feet. Blessed is the man or woman who speaks such a word.”
William Barclay



Who could you encourage this week?

II. We need to stand together in love. Verses 2-3


Paul prayed that they would be *“encouraged in heart and united in love”*.

Paul was deeply concerned about the unity of the church.

“If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of self ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.” Philippians 2:1-4

Jesus prayed for the unity of the church.


“I pray that they may be one as we are one. I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”
John 17:22b-23



One of Satan's schemes is to divide the church and divide Christians.


What can hold us together?
Only Christ – our love for him and for one another.

Love is a powerful bond.



III. We need wisdom and it is found in Jesus Christ.
Verses 2-5


Paul prayed that they would have the "full riches of a complete understanding".



Paul calls it a treasure. *"In him are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."*

The more we study the Scripture with an open heart, the more amazing this book is.

The more we learn and apply it to our life, the closer we grow to Christ.



We need believers who see their work as a calling from God and who live and work for his glory.

Conclusion

If we are going to grow in Christ and be a light for Christ in this community, we need to:

- Encourage one another.
- Work together in love.
- Keep growing in our relationship with Christ.