



**Calvary Chapel South Bay  
Men's Ministry 2018 – 19**

**“Putting Christ First”**

**Session 6**

**November 13, 2018**

**“Stand in conflict against persuasive words”**

Paul says he is in “**great conflict**” for the church; that they would truly understand the riches they have in Christ, in whom all the “**treasures of wisdom and knowledge**” are hidden (stored). Paul is battling passionately against the deceit of the Gnostics who would claim special knowledge. Jesus Christ has knit us together (united us) in His love, and gives us “**full assurance**” in Him because of the Cross. No “**persuasive words**” of man-made philosophy can gain us that. Are you in conflict against the persuasive words of worldly philosophy by focusing on Jesus Christ through His Word, by the Spirit of God? Ask the Holy Spirit to give you Paul’s passion for Jesus Christ and the truth of His Word so that you might be “steadfast” in your faith in Christ.

**Passage:** Colossians 2:1-5

**Personal Study Time Questions:**

**Scripture: Colossians 2:1-2**

The word “**conflict**” means *a place of contest, or strife*. What is he in conflict over for the church, according to verse 2?

**Scripture: Colossians 2:2; 1:27**

“**Mystery**”, as we learned in the previous passage, doesn’t mean an unknown thing, but something that was previously not understood. What mystery was revealed in Colossians 1:27? In your own words, how can the knowledge of that give you “**full assurance**” with God?

**Scripture: Colossians 2:3**

The Gnostics claimed, as some people today still try to do, that they have a special knowledge of truth. What does this verse say about **“wisdom and knowledge”**?

**Scripture: Colossians 2:4**

Why was Paul in such **“great conflict”** over sharing the truths of this passage to the church?

**Scripture: 1 Corinthians 2:1-2**

Paul didn't try to impress the churches of his own **“excellence of speech”** or **“wisdom”** to declare the **“testimony of God.”** What was the main thing he was **“determined”** to know among the churches?

**Scripture: Colossians 2:5**

What did Paul rejoice in, which in essence pointed the church to what was important for them to do?

### **Personal meditation time with Jesus:**

Even today, our world has many philosophies that they use, trying to draw us away from the truth of Jesus Christ. What things in this week's passage are important for us to focus on if we are to stand strong against these "***persuasive words***"? The world (and the devil) will try to draw us into arguments over our different viewpoint from them. What can we learn from Paul in this passage, as well as in 1 Corinthians 2:1-2, that can help us not get drawn into the arena of the flesh, and stand strong in this conflict?

### **Hide God's Word in your heart (Ps. 119:11):**

"For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified."

1 Corinthians 2:2