

For I want you to know what a great conflict I have for you and those in Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh, that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Colossians 2:1-4. NKJ

Paul's love of the church is seen in this text, even his love for those whom he had not met personally. This is the love all in the church ought to have for one another, for we are family. The constant references to brother and sister indicate our family relationship as does the Lord's teaching to address God as our Father (Matthew 6:9). Consider carefully the words of John concerning love in his letters, especially chapters three and four of first John, then apply the attributes of love Paul gave in 1 Corinthians 13. Jesus commands us to love one another, and by that love people know we are His disciples (John 13:34-35).

Do know, however, that love does not overlook a person's sin or error in teaching. Paul said that love "does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth" (1 Corinthians 13:6). Paul reproved false teachers and instructed us to mark and avoid those who are teaching falsehoods (2 Timothy 2:23-26; Romans 16:17-18). James says that one who turns his brother from sin "will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins" (James 5:20).

As Paul noted his desire to present all disciples perfect in the first chapter of this letter, and here he expresses the same desire for brothers and sisters. His desire is for all to be encouraged, knit together in love and gaining the full assurance of understanding and knowledge (see the textbox above). This was Paul's desire for them, and certainly is the Lord's desire for all. Paul was pleased with their steadfastness but warned them about the dangers around them in the verses following those in the text box.

Remember, that this mystery was a mystery in the past but was revealed by the apostles and prophets through the New Testament. See Ephesians 3:1-13.

In this text Paul speaks of God, the Father and of Christ. Jesus came in the flesh but was still fully divine. He was rightly called "Immanuel" which is "God with us" (Matthew 1:21). John spoke of the Word Who was with God and was God and then revealed the Word to be Jesus (John 1:1-3, 14). Paul had already spoken of the position of Jesus in this letter (Colossians 1:13-23) and would yet again (Colossians 2:9-10). Jesus boldly stated that He and the Father are one, and the Jews understood Him. They wanted to kill him for His claim of deity (John 10:25-33). Consider also Hebrews 1 and Philipians 2:5-11.

All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are of God, the Father and of Christ Jesus. Surely we can understand that God has wisdom and knowledge far surpassing ours! Romans 11:33-36 expressed the wonder we should have toward God. Isaiah 40-45 provides many details about God as does Job 38-41. We do not and cannot define God! We are to learn of Him through the revelation given to us through inspired men. That revelation is found in the Bible alone. No other volume is an inspired will of God and all other volumes can be filled with error. Look to God, for only in Him do we find the riches He reveals.