

Colossians
“A Worthy Walk”
III. Main Teaching: 1:15-4:6

2:4-23 **Walking in the Word of Christ**

2:1-3 Through the church...2:4-7 In Faith

2:1-5
“Hidden in plain sight”

I. Intro.

II. Vs. 1-3 Never a dull moment

III. Vs. 4-5 Nothing real about imitation

I. Intro.

Webster’s dictionary defines boredom as: *The state of being weary and restless through lack of interest.* I don’t care what generation you are from; every parent has heard their child say at least once, “*I’m bored, ... there’s nothing to do!*” As if their condition is someone else’s fault or responsibility. At the heart of boredom is that most folks look to outside stimulus to get and keep them excited about life. The truth of the matter is that boredom is really our own problem of not finding anything within our own resources anything to draw excitement and interest from!

The reason why this is relevant to our study is that these dear believers had started to listen and follow after false teachers because they had become apathetic and bored with Jesus! Paul’s antidote to “*Christian boredom*” is revealing afresh the person and work of Christ. Jesus is not just Someone you knew in the, He is an endless life of discovery, a joy filled quest where every turn and twist leaves you wanting more of Him. Saints, it’s time we get excited about Jesus again and anticipate the next great adventures into the mystery of His unending love. He is the book that you can’t put down, the story

that you never want to end! This is one of the reasons why Paul employs the word “*riches*” and “*treasures*” in his letters 16 times, three in Colossians. The use of these words speaks of the wealth of living available to the Christian which will enable them to escape the boredom of life.

II. Vs. 1-3 Never a dull moment

Vs. 1 The word “For” tells us that the thought of chapter one verses 28-29 are carried forward into chapter 2. Paul having said in verse 28 that he preached Jesus is such a way as to present every person mature in Christ. He goes on to say in verse 29 that this work was one in which he gave the balance of preparation, perspiration and inspiration. Paul wanted these believers to become excited about their pursuit of Jesus so that they would quit pursuing false teaching. I remind you that while Paul was dictating this letter he was chained between two Roman guards around the clock in Rome. Paul’s passion for Christ wasn’t circumstantial; it didn’t wavier when times got tuff.

Vs. 2-3 We have all had the experience listening to someone who has had an experience with something or someone that as they speak of it we become excited and want to meet that person or experience what they have, just because of what our friend has told us.

There are folks who have heard about Jesus for all if not most of their lives and He just doesn’t excite them. And the Bible, well they have one but they would rather watch paint dry then read it. Paul wants them to take another look at Jesus in order to “*attain to all the riches*” and “*full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ.*” His heart is that they would be a church knit together in Love for Jesus and each other. A church that is **not** knit together in love is not a Church. Performance or activity can never be a substitute for a body that loves. *A body that knits*

together in love stays together because of love! But such love isn't in absence of the mind as Paul says that they were to be a church that was seeking three things for the intellect:

- a. **Understanding**: This is a word in the Greek that refers to critical knowledge or the ability to assess any situation and decide what practical course of action is necessary to take. The Christian and the church must possess the ability of practical discernment so that will be able to take the right course of action.
- b. **Knowledge**: Is the Greek word that means intuitive or instinctive truth such as that which is gained through experience. It is the hands on kind of learning that we gain only through living life.
- c. **Wisdom**: This word describes knowledge that is applied and commended and confirmed and acted upon before we experience its benefits. It is this wisdom that enables us to reason, trust and obey!

Sometimes our "*boredom*" is because we didn't investigate the further advantages of our Christian life. Like a computer in the hands of an infant isn't something that is going to excite them, they aren't going to see any use for it and probably just end up playing with the box it came in. Could our problem be that we haven't fully investigated the enumerable advantages that are ours in Christ?

Sometimes I get that feeling when I look at the Westernized Evangelical Church, with all our programs and entertainment that some think Jesus needs our help, a good public relations campaign, in order to excite the masses as people are bored of their faith. If anyone had the potential to be "*bored*" it would have been Paul who was at the very moment of writing this letter chained between two Roman guards under house arrest unable to leave. Yet, he is bursting at the seams with excitement over a man most in the

world had never heard of and many who had heard of Him thought that He was a dead trouble maker. It's time that we rediscover Jesus afresh anew because if we do we can never be bored again. Oh, Church with its feeble and unwanted attempts to entertain us may be boring but never JESUS!

Friends sometimes the treasures that we are looking for are already ours and we don't realize it. The story is told of the News Paper tycoon William Randolph Hurst who was looking through a book of famous art work when one painting caught his eye, "*I want this painting*" he told his curators. But after an exhaustive search they couldn't find its location and came back empty handed. Hurst was furious and threatened to fire them if they didn't return with the painting. Three and a half months later they came to him and told him that they had finally found the painting. Hurst asked, "*Where is it?*" There reply was, "*Sir we found it in your own warehouse; you already own it!*" Saint's the treasures we often seek are already ours in Christ. In Him are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. So go back to your own warehouse of the Word of God and you will find what you're looking for.

III. Vs. 4-7 Nothing real about imitation

Vs. 4-5 Because these precious saints had lost their view of Jesus they had become followers of fancy sounding words. The word deceived means to "*reason beside something*" to "*produce a forgery*" that looks almost identical with the real one but isn't. ***The deception is that it passes its self-off as the original so that the casual observer will be persuaded to except the phony as the original.*** These days many a manufactured thing is a counterfeit of the original. Our cars have simulated "*wood grain*" panels which is nothing more than painted plastic. Our leather chairs are made of Naugahyde, a vinyl

product also known as pleather (plastic-leather). You can buy fabric flowers that never fade but neither are they fragrant and alive! How about those veggie burgers? Not for me I want the original, not a cheap imitation. There are always going to be folks who are going to try to pass some new spiritual thing off as the original but the real problem is when you and I begin to regard it as equal to or better than Jesus.

- I don't want the Michael the Archangel version of Jesus
- I'm not interested in the spirit brother of Lucifer version either

I only want to submit my life to the King of Kings and the Lord of Lord's who spoke and the world leaped into existence. The Jesus that every knee will bow and every tongue confess that He alone is Lord! To me this true alive Jesus is never boring, always exciting, pure joy and peace. It is to this Jesus that Paul wants to present as the One to keep our eyes fixed upon and our lives obedient towards! *The answer to boredom is to reject the cheap imitation so you can discover the exciting God whom we serve.*

In verse 5 Paul says that there were two things that the Colossian believers possessed that encouraged him that they would reject the false and go after Jesus:

- d. **Good order**: These believers were living a disciplined ordered life. They made themselves do the right things even when they didn't want too. A disciplined life is always harder to be deceived because it doesn't fit into the path of least resistance. It doesn't mind getting its hands dirty and sacrificing things to achieve the truth. There is a dichotomy in life that says: *The greater the discipline and practice the greater the ease and freedom!* Someone who has disciplined their life to play a musical instrument with ease is a person who has spent tremendous hours of practice to make

it effortless! If you want ease and freedom then you will need discipline as shortcuts will never get you there.

- e. **Steadfastness of your faith in Christ**: These believers had the right order in their faith as it was Jesus who held them and not they who held Christ. They didn't have faith in their faith, they had placed their trust in a person! It is always difficult to mislead and deceive a person who isn't trusting in themselves to begin with.