



## SERMON STUDY

GUIDE

### Small Group Guide: Colossians 2.1-8

#### Open with Prayer:

#### Sermon Summary:

Writing from prison, Paul's heart turns outward toward churches he has never visited and believers he has never met. **His goal is simple:** that their hearts would be encouraged through being knit together in love and united around knowing Christ fully. No single church can contain the fullness of who Christ is, which means isolation is a loss. Paul then warns that plausible arguments will come to pull us away from that unity and from Christ himself. The answer is not a better debate strategy. It is a life rooted in Christ, continually built up in faith, and overflowing with gratitude. A tree survives the storm not by trying harder, but because of what is happening underground.

#### Discussion Questions:

1. Think of someone in your life whose faith has shaped yours in a meaningful way. What did you learn from them that you might not have discovered on your own?
2. In Colossians 2.1, Paul says he has a "great struggle" for people he has never met. What does that tell us about what Christian love is supposed to look like?
3. Paul uses the word "full" when describing the knowledge he wants believers to reach. Why do you think he chose that word? What is the difference between knowing Christ and knowing Christ fully?
4. In verses 4 and 8, Paul warns against "plausible arguments" and being taken "captive by philosophy and empty deceit." Why does he connect this warning directly to the call for unity?
5. The sermon made the point that each part of the body of Christ carries a revelation of Christ that the other parts need. Do you agree with that? What does it look like practically?
6. Which of the plausible arguments listed in the sermon do you think your friends, coworkers, or family members find most convincing? Which one challenges you personally?
7. When Paul describes being rooted, built up, and abounding in thanksgiving, which of those three feels most lacking in your life right now? What might need to change?

## Key Takeaways:

- **Love has a source:** It is not a human emotion first. It is the character of God himself (1 John 4.8, 4.16). When we are knit together in love, we are reflecting the nature of God to a watching world.
- **Full knowledge requires the whole body.** No one church, no one tradition, and no one generation can fully contain who Christ is. We need each other across neighborhoods, cultures, and continents.
- **Plausible arguments are dangerous** precisely because they feel reasonable. The answer is not just better arguments. It is deeper roots. Colossians 2.6-7 calls us to walk in Christ the same way we received him, by grace and through faith.
- **Gratitude is a spiritual indicator** When you are rooted in Christ and built up in faith, thanksgiving becomes the natural overflow. Paul could be grateful in chains because his roots were deep, not because his circumstances were easy.

## This Week:

- **Connect beyond your walls:** Reach out to a believer from a different church, culture, or background. Ask them how their faith community experiences and expresses worship, prayer, or service differently than yours. Come back ready to share one thing you learned about Christ through that conversation.
- **Name the argument:** Identify one plausible argument against faith that you personally encounter in your workplace, home, or online life. Write it down. Then spend time in Scripture this week finding where the truth of Christ speaks directly into it. Be ready to share both the argument and what you found.
- **Root check:** Each morning this week, before you pick up your phone or start your day, spend five minutes in Colossians 2.6-7. Read it slowly. Ask God one question: "Where do my roots need to go deeper?" Journal what comes up.