

## Sermon Notes

Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2026  
Colossians 2.1-8

### Paul's Struggle (v. 1)

- Paul writes from prison with a heart for people he has never met
- His love reaches beyond proximity, across churches, across generations

Key question: What does love for our neighbor actually cost us?

### What Encourages the Heart (v. 2a)

- "Heart" refers to your inner life, the core of who you are
- Paul's pastoral goal is that our hearts would be encouraged
- Encouragement comes through being knit together in love

### God Is the Source of That Love (v. 2b)

- Love is not a feeling first. It is the character of God (1 John 4.8, 4.16)
- God's love is steadfast and overflowing (Exodus 34.6, Psalm 103.8)
- God's love moves. It sent His Son and it sends us (John 3.16, Romans 5.8)

### United Around Knowing Christ Fully (v. 2c)

- The goal is full knowledge of Christ, not partial
- No single person or church sees the whole of who Christ is
- We need the wider body: locally, nationally, and globally

### The Threat: Plausible Arguments (vv. 4 and 8)

- "Science has replaced God"
- "Truth is personal"

- "The church is full of hypocrites"
- "A good God would not allow suffering"
- These arguments feel reasonable. That is what makes them dangerous.

### How to Stand Firm (vv. 5-7)

- Rooted: Spiritual depth is built underground, before the storm hits
- Built up: Faith is not static. You are still being constructed
- Grateful: Thanksgiving is evidence of a heart that knows where everything comes from

### Study Questions

- Where are your spiritual roots drawing from this week?
- What part of the body of Christ are you intentionally connected to beyond this church?

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