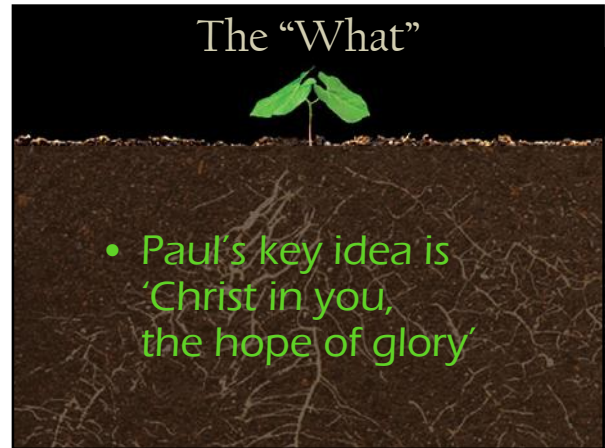


Deeper into Christ



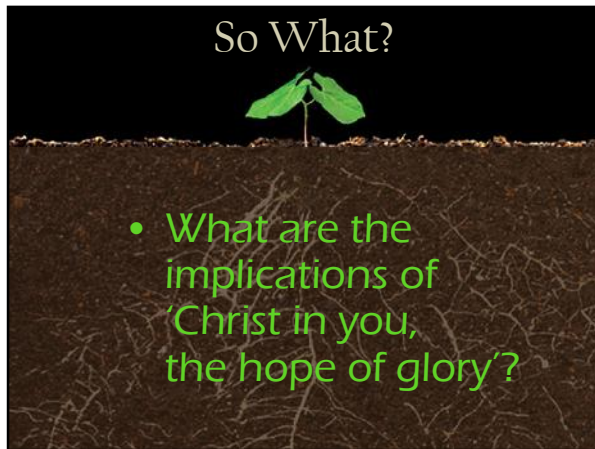
God's Hidden Treasure
Colossians 2:1-7

The "What"



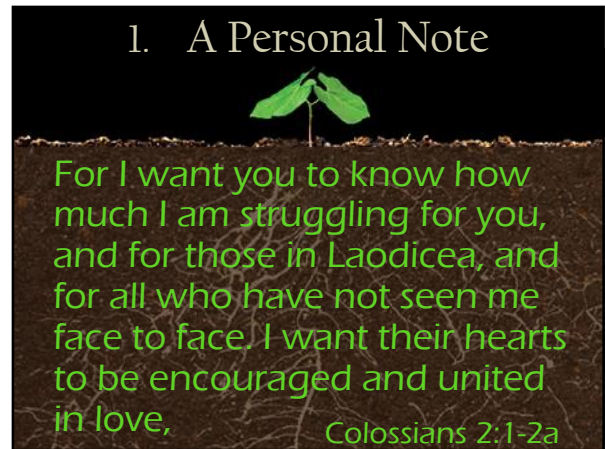
- Paul's key idea is 'Christ in you, the hope of glory'

So What?

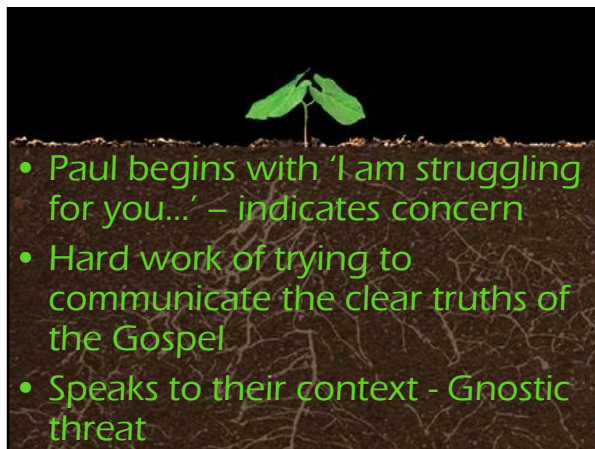


- What are the implications of 'Christ in you, the hope of glory'?

1. A Personal Note

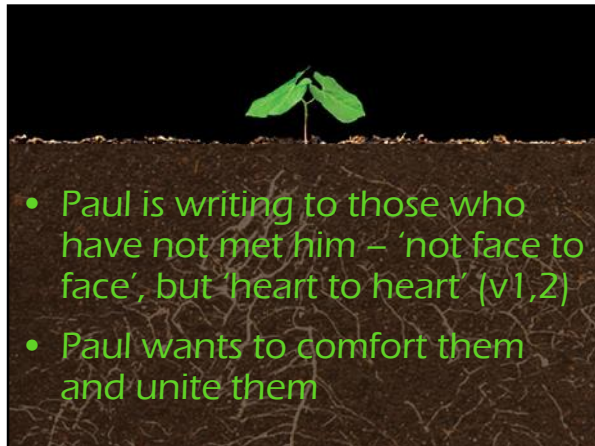


For I want you to know how much I am struggling for you, and for those in Laodicea, and for all who have not seen me face to face. I want their hearts to be encouraged and united in love,
Colossians 2:1-2a



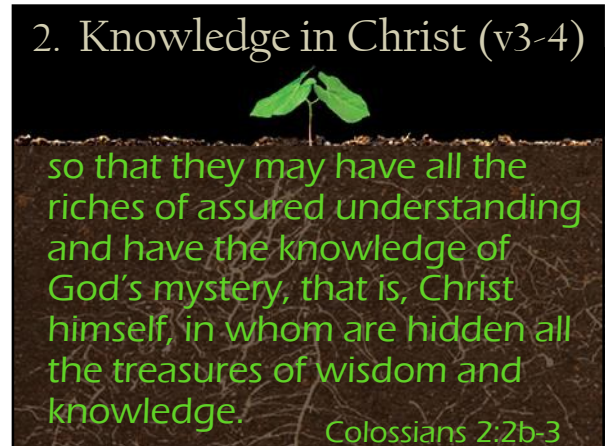
- Paul begins with 'I am struggling for you...' – indicates concern
- Hard work of trying to communicate the clear truths of the Gospel
- Speaks to their context - Gnostic threat



A small green seedling with two leaves is shown growing out of a thin layer of soil. Below the surface, its roots are very shallow and do not penetrate deep into the dark earth.

- Paul is writing to those who have not met him – ‘not face to face’, but ‘heart to heart’ (v1,2)
- Paul wants to comfort them and unite them

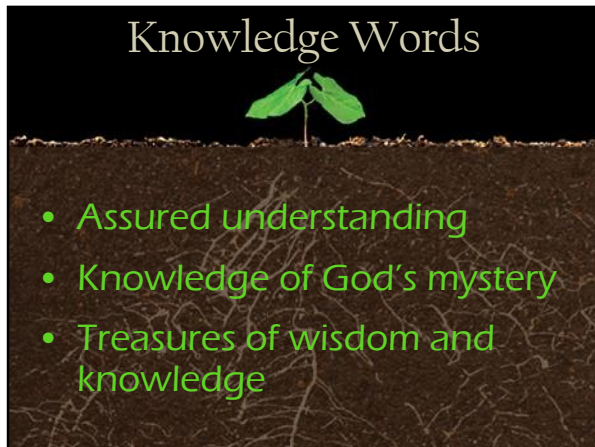
2. Knowledge in Christ (v3-4)

A small green seedling with two leaves is shown growing out of a thin layer of soil. Below the surface, its roots are very shallow and do not penetrate deep into the dark earth.

so that they may have all the riches of assured understanding and have the knowledge of God’s mystery, that is, Christ himself, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

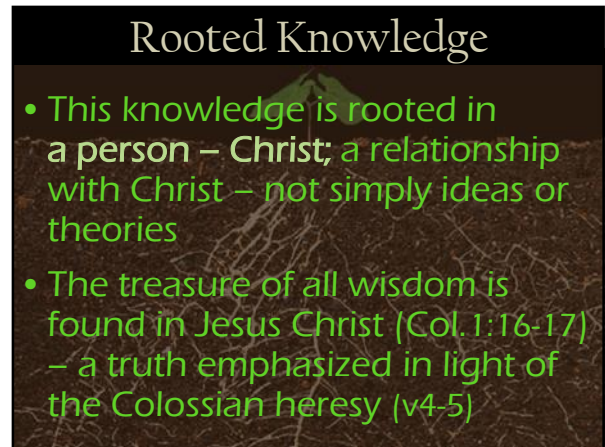
Colossians 2:2b-3

Knowledge Words

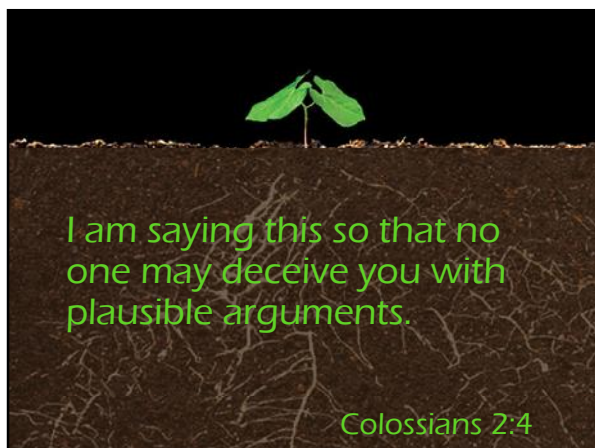
A small green seedling with two leaves is shown growing out of a thin layer of soil. Below the surface, its roots are very shallow and do not penetrate deep into the dark earth.

- Assured understanding
- Knowledge of God’s mystery
- Treasures of wisdom and knowledge

Rooted Knowledge

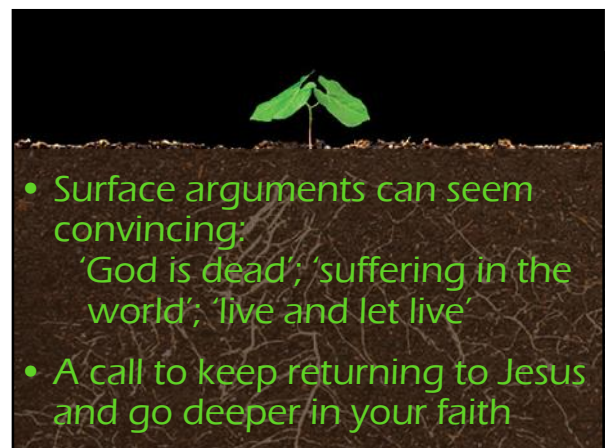
A small green seedling with two leaves is shown growing out of a thin layer of soil. Below the surface, its roots are very shallow and do not penetrate deep into the dark earth.

- This knowledge is rooted in a person – Christ; a relationship with Christ – not simply ideas or theories
- The treasure of all wisdom is found in Jesus Christ (Col. 1:16-17) – a truth emphasized in light of the Colossian heresy (v4-5)


A small green seedling with two leaves is shown growing out of a thin layer of soil. Below the surface, its roots are very shallow and do not penetrate deep into the dark earth.

I am saying this so that no one may deceive you with plausible arguments.

Colossians 2:4

A small green seedling with two leaves is shown growing out of a thin layer of soil. Below the surface, its roots are very shallow and do not penetrate deep into the dark earth.


- Surface arguments can seem convincing: ‘God is dead’; ‘suffering in the world’; ‘live and let live’
- A call to keep returning to Jesus and go deeper in your faith




3. A Call to Go Deeper (v6-7)

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

Colossians 2:6-7




- A command – an imperative
- Based on imitation – use Jesus as your personal example, 'as you have received Christ Jesus'




Four Metaphors

1. A Path – continue to 'live your lives in him' – literally 'walk in him'
- walk on the path of Jesus




If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

Galatians 5:25



Four Metaphors

2. A Tree – 'be rooted' in Jesus
– As a tree sends down deep roots into the soil
– Cedars and Sitka spruce of the rain forest in B.C.



Four Metaphors

3. A House – 'built up' in Jesus
– Built up brick by brick
– Jesus is the cement holding the building together
– This speaks of our response in real time – hour by hour

Four Metaphors



4. A Legal Agreement

- 'established in the faith' – a legal term for a contract drawn up
- Faith speaking to our life in Jesus

It was that King Jesus himself was the centre of the cosmos, the key to life and the universe, the image of the invisible God, the clue to genuinely human existence.

Tom Wright

The Result



'Abounding in thanksgiving'

- Marked by joy/thanks – a Pauline term

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3:17

- Our joyful life of thanksgiving will be an attraction for those around us
- Christ is our blueprint; we model our life on him

- Christ is our buried treasure – keep going deeper into Jesus
- Mel Fisher – treasure off Florida Keys