

## Ch 2:1-5 Being 'knit together in love'

Before starting the questions this week, review last weeks passage (Colossians 1:24-29). Reviewing the verse will be helpful as you go through the questions below.

1. Scan through the passage (1:24-29). Remind yourselves of Paul's emphasis on rejoicing in sorrows, the components that make up his job, and the word 'toil'.

Now lets jump into Ch 2:1-5

2. Note that in 1:24 Paul talks about 'rejoicing in suffering' and in 2:7 he talks about 'abounding in thanksgiving'. These function like 'bookends'. What do we mean when we use that term? Why does Paul bookend this section? What are the connected concepts we see in the passage?
3. Paul mentions this theme of 'joy in suffering' in other scripture passages. Take a moment to read them. 1 Thess. 1:6-7, Romans 5:1-5, 1 Peter 1:8-9
4. Note the phrase "How great a struggle"(2:1). Pastor Don mentioned that this is likely Paul telling the Colossian church that he is praying for them. What is Paul picturing when he says that he is struggling in prayer?
5. Have each person in the group share a bigger prayer request that you have been struggling with.
6. Paul is struggling in prayer that they may be encouraged. There are two ways to read that verse.
  - The fact that the Colossians know that Paul is struggling - brings encouragement.
  - Paul is praying that they would be encouraged. In answer to his prayers, they are encouraged. Which of these two is most likely? Why?
7. If time permits, look at these similar prayers that Paul prayed. Romans 15:13;30-33; 2 Thess. 2:16-17.
8. Paul's prayer is that they would be encouraged. This will happen by them "being knit together in love" What comes to mind when you hear that phrase?
9. It's interesting that Paul uses the word "knit". This phrase is used in a couple of places in the Bible (Psalm139:13, Col.2:19, Eph. 4:16). What does this word 'knit' convey? What was Paul picturing when he prayed that they would be knit together in love?
10. When Christians are knit together, Paul says this produces understanding and knowledge (2:2b). What does this look like in real life?
11. Look at the language that Paul uses. He used phrases such as "reach all the riches" & "all the treasures". What value does Paul place on wisdom and understanding? Do we still have that same emphasis in the church today?
12. As you think about your time spent in churches, have you experienced wisdom and understanding?
13. "Absent in the body, present with you in Spirit" is an interesting (maybe even confusing) statement. What are the implications of this verse.?

14. How does the example of Paul's prayers for the Colossians change the way you pray for those around you? Your family, your co-workers, your friends etc.