

Colossians 2:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For I would that ye knew what great conflict I have for you,
and for them at Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen
my face in the flesh;

Analysis

For I would that ye knew what great conflict I have for you, and for them at Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh;

Paul asserts the supremacy and sufficiency of Christ against false teaching. This verse contributes to Paul's overall purpose in Colossians: Assert supremacy and sufficiency of Christ. The key themes of supremacy of Christ, fullness in Christ, false teaching are evident in this passage.

Historical Context

Historical Setting: Colossians was written around 60-62 CE from Roman imprisonment to Church threatened by false teaching.

Occasion: Combating early Gnostic-like heresy. Paul wrote these 'Prison Epistles' during Roman imprisonment, likely around 60-62 CE. Despite chains, his focus remained on Christ's supremacy and the church's mission.

First-century believers lived in a pluralistic, pagan society with many parallels to today. Social structures, economic pressures, and religious confusion all challenged Christian witness. Paul's instructions addressed both timeless theological truths and specific cultural situations.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does Colossians 2:1 deepen my understanding of the gospel and God's character?
2. What specific action or attitude change does this verse call me to make this week?
3. How does this passage point to Christ and His redemptive work?

Interlinear Text

Θέλω	γὰρ	ὕμᾱς	εἰδέναι	ἡλίκον	ἀγῶνα	ἔχω	περὶ	ὕμῶν
I would	For	that ye	knew	what great	conflict	I have	for	you
G2309	G1063	G5209	G1492	G2245	G73	G2192	G4012	G5216
καὶ	τῶν	ἐν	Λαοδικείᾳ	καὶ	ὅσοι	οὐχ		
and	G3588	for them at	Laodicea	and	for as many as	not		
G2532		G1722	G2993	G2532	G3745	G3756		
ἔωράκασιν	τὸ	πρόσωπόν	μου	ἐν	σαρκί			
have	G3588	face	my	for them at	the flesh			
G3708		G4383	G3450	G1722	G4561			

Additional Cross-References

Colossians 1:29 (Parallel theme): Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.

Philippians 1:30 (Parallel theme): Having the same conflict which ye saw in me, and now hear to be in me.

Revelation 1:11 (Parallel theme): Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.

Acts 20:38 (Parallel theme): Sorrowing most of all for the words which he spake, that they should see his face no more. And they accompanied him unto the ship.

Colossians 1:24 (Parallel theme): Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church:

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