

LINCOLN COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
SERMON OUTLINE
May 27th, 2018
Colossians 2:1-2a

- **RECAP:** Last week, we discussed how God admonishes us to “warn” everyone and also “teach” everyone, with all “wisdom,” in order to eventually bring everyone to Christ. This is the total work and mission of us on this Earth.

- **“For I want you to know how great a struggle I have”**
 - Paul suffered numerous amounts of torture and punishment from man.
 - God Himself gave Paul a “thorn” in order to keep Paul humble, **2nd. Cor. 12:7-10**
 - Remember **2nd Cor. 11** details how even then Paul had to struggle against false doctrines and false brothers in the church, which he details quite well in many of his letters, such as **1st Cor. Or Gal.!**

- **“for you, and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not seen me face to face”**
 - Paul distinguishes three groups he struggles on behalf of in this book. Firstly, of course, for the very Colossians themselves!
 - If you remember, Colossae was a city located now in what is central Turkey, inland in Asia Minor. It’s neighbor, Laodicea, was not far off, only about ten miles away, and so Colossae remained very much a sister city to this church also. Laodicea is also one of the churches mentioned in Revelation, in Christ’s seven letters to the churches, **Rev. 3:14.**
 - Paul wants them to know that even though he has not seen them ever, like a good, caring parent, he has struggled greatly on their behalf.

- **“that their hearts my be encouraged,”**
 - Emotions are important in our faith, and they should encourage. This is how you do the hard things, such as witness, or do the grind of ministry, by realizing that God’s sacrifice should inspire and encourage your heart!

- **“being knit together in love,”**
 - Without doing a full recap, when we discuss “love” in Scripture, the most accurate term of description is “continual self-sacrifice.”

- **“to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding”**
 - Be encouraged of heart, and emotion! But also exercise self-sacrificing love, and also this understanding and confident knowledge we should have that tempers our zeal.

- **APPLICATION:**
 1. **Paul calls us alongside him, being passionate in heart and encouraged by Christ’s sacrifice and love for you!**
 2. **Let your zeal also fuel a self-sacrificing love for the church and the family of God.**
 3. **Do not let your zeal or your passions go unrestrained by wisdom and guidance!**