

SERMON SUMMARY

Date: December 30, 2007	11:00 am Worship Service
Preacher: Rev. Donald Lawrence	Reference: Colossians 2: 1- 17
Topic: Grasping Our Lord's Desire... for the Incarnation and Prosperity	

Is there a link between Christ's coming and prosperity? Also, what do we need to make us prosper? Colossae was part of a tri-city region that was very prosperous materially. It was also an area where both old and new distorted views of relating to God were being blended and gaining popularity. In an effort to direct the believers to the genuine path, Paul wanted the Colossians to come to a better understanding of:

- him as their shepherd
- the dynamic of their situation
- Christ as their Savior
- how to value them-Selves

In verses 1-5, Paul wanted them to know Their Worker, by coming to understand:

- ✦ his Pain (1)
- ✦ his Purpose (2-4)
 - (2a) to be courageous
 - (2b) to be a community
 - (3-4) to be competent to live
- ✦ his Partnership (5a)
- ✦ his Pleasure (5b)

This is a call to know fullness in Christ. Openness to Guidance is demanded because God gives us Helpers.

Paul wanted them to know their Watch as seen in verses 6-8. These verses encourage:

- ✦ Abide in Christ (6)
- ✦ Anchored in Christ (7a)
- ✦ Advancement in Christ (7b)
- ✦ Appreciation in Christ (7c)
- ✦ Alertness in Christ
 - (8a) deceptive philosophy
 - (8b) un-Christ-like customs & concepts

This is a call to be foolproof in Christ. This demands Openness to Growth because God gives us a Hedge.

In verses 9-12, Paul wanted them to Know their Wealth...to see Christ who:

- ✦ fully Represents God (9)
- ✦ is given full Reign by God (10)
- ✦ gives full Release as God (11)
- ✦ gives full Rebirth in the Power of God (12)

This is a call to know fusion with Christ. Openness to God is demanded because God gives Himself.

Verses 13-17 show Paul as wanting them to know their Worth. He points out:

- ✦ God's First move - Christmas (13a)
- ✦ God's Forgiveness – the Cross (13b)
- ✦ God Freeing them – Cancellation (14)
- ✦ God's Fight for them - Conquest (15)
- ✦ God's Fortune for them - Christ (16-17)

This is a call to know fellowship through Christ. This demands Openness to Grace because the fact is God gives a Heritage.

Christ became man and so entered the poverty of our existence, so as to lead us to the comprehensive riches of fellowship with God. Let us not allow anything or anyone to derail what God intends for us, by lack of consistency, carefulness and deep communion with Christ.