



FOR PEOPLE ON THE GROW "An Ounce of Encouragement" Colossians 2:1-7

No. 5029

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Paul's explicitly stated purpose in his ministry to the Christians in the Lycus Valley was that "they may be encouraged in heart." An ounce of encouragement, like a spoonful of sugar, goes a long way. (Note: "*parakaleo*" = beseech, exhort, comfort, encourage. e.g. Boston Marathon runners.)

I. Encouragement Inspires People. v. 1

- A. Because concern is expressed – "Struggling for you."
- B. Because contact is made – "All who have not met me."
- C. Because communication is real – "I want you to know."
- D. Because commendation is given – "I delight to see." v. 5

II. Encouragement Instructs People. vv. 2-4

- A. By strengthening the individual.
- B. By uniting the fellowship.
 - 1. His Body.
 - 2. The church. 1:24; See Ephesians 3:18
- C. By enriching the understanding.
- D. By revealing the mystery.
 - 1. In Christ, God is made known.
 - 2. In Christ, treasures are stored.
 - 3. In Christ, reality is found.
- E. By exposing the deceivers.
 - 1. Test what you're taught.
 - 2. "Nothing is so dangerous as feeble reasoning allied to fast talking." - R.C. Lucas

III. Encouragement Involves People. vv. 6-7

- Involvement in...
 - A. Continuing as you started.
 - 1. You received Christ Jesus as Lord.
 - 2. You should "walk" in Him.
 - B. Blooming as you were planted.
 - 1. You were rooted in Him.
 - 2. Keep in touch with your roots.
 - C. Developing as you were instructed.
 - 1. You were taught correctly.
 - 2. Progress in the faith (knowing it, doing it).
 - D. Overflowing as you were enthused.