

- I) V4 INTRO: Now this I say lest anyone should deceive you with *persuasive* words
  - a) As we have already seen, the Apostle Paul had great conflict (anxiety) on their behalf
    - 1) False teachers were reducing Jesus from God in human flesh, to something less
    - 2) Their teachings if put in to practice would replace God's saving grace with human works
    - 3) FRUIT: If followed, they would be brought under bondage and undermine God's grace
  
- II) HE IS SO CONCERNED: That he actually prays for them in this letter
  - a) He prays that they would walk worthy of the Lord, be fully pleasing to Him, would be fruitful in every good work, would be increasing in the knowledge of God, and that they might be strengthened with all might according to His glorious power (1:10-11)
    - 1) All of this is only made possible by the *grace of God*, and not through rules and regulations
  
- III) AT THE PASTOR'S CONFERENCE: I was reminded of the immense grace communicated by Chuck
  - a) I literally going to hell, and may have ended up there but for the message of grace
    - 1) Chuck taught us simple principles of grace because he cared about the lost hippy kids
    - 2) Famous story of new carpet and dirty bare feet: rip up the carpet but save the kids
  
- IV) GRACE: All centers on what God was willing to do for those who did not deserve it
  - a) It is all resting on Jesus, and His obvious sacrifice for sinful man
    - 1) Rules and laws did not save man, but truth, grace, and mercy did
    - 2) Jn 1:17 The law was given through Moses, but *grace* and truth came through Jesus Christ.
  
- V) PAUL: Has been plainly presenting Jesus as more than just a human teacher or philosopher
  - a) He plainly disclosed that Jesus is God in the flesh: He is the invisible God, Creator of all things
    - 1) 1:19 It pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell
    - 2) 2:3 In (Jesus) are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge
  
- VI) INTERESTING: *Treasures* refers to a receptacle in which valuables are kept, or a treasury
  - a) POINT: The wisdom and knowledge of God in safely secured, stored up, in Jesus
    - 1) If that is true, then it is foolish to try to find answers from any other source
    - 2) 1 Co 1:23-24 We preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block, and to the Greeks foolishness; but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ *the power of God* and *the wisdom of God*.
  
- VII) V4 PAUL CONTINUES: Now this I say lest anyone should *deceive* you with *persuasive* words
  - a) POINT: I am saying this to protect you from deception through faulty reasoning
    - 1) DECEIVE: To delude by false reasoning
    - 2) PERSUASIVE: In a bad sense, persuasiveness of speech leads others into error
  
- VIII) AS AN APOSTLE: Paul was constantly concerned that the message would remain pure
  - a) He was also concerned for the spiritual condition of the Church
    - 1) WHY: Because you live what you believe, and false teaching ruins lives
    - 2) Titus 1:10-11 For there are many rebellious people, mere *talkers* and *deceivers*, especially those of the circumcision group. They must be silenced, because they are ruining whole households by teaching things they ought not to teach --and that for the sake of dishonest gain.
    - 3) The gospel must be plainly taught, without embellishing it or changing it
  
- I) V5 FOR: Though I am absent in the flesh yet I am with you in spirit rejoicing to see your good order

- a) Paul anticipates the response that would come through the false teachers' influence
  - 1) How can you have conflict over people you don't even know? How can you express such love?
  - 2) You have never been with us, and how can you be aware of what is going on in us/
  
- II) HIS ANSWER: I am with you in spirit
  - a) My heart, my presence is with you though I am not physically with you
    - 1) We belong to the same Body, and as such I care about you
    - 2) 1 Co 12:26 If one member suffers all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it
  
- III) V5 NOTICE: Rejoicing to see your *good order* and the *steadfastness* of your faith in Christ
  - a) MILITARY TERMS: *Good order* is a line of soldiers, drawn up for battle standing side by side
  - b) *Steadfastness* speaks of their feet being firmly planted, forming a solid line of defense
  
- IV) HIS THOUGHT: You have formed a line of resistance, and have remained untouched by the error
  - a) The church had not yielded to the pressure to embrace the false doctrine
    - 1) SADLY: When false doctrine enters a church, some willingly embrace it
    - 2) 2 Jn 4 I rejoiced greatly that I have found *some of your children* walking in truth, as we received commandment from the Father.
  
- V) V6-7 AS YOU: Have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him
  - a) How did they receive Jesus as Lord? They received Him through grace and faith
    - 1) Eph 2:8-9 For by *grace* you have been saved *through faith*, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.
    - 2) KEY: We are saved by grace *through* the channel of saving faith and could never save ourselves
    - 3) 2 Ti 1:9 He has saved us and called us to a holy life --*not because of anything we have done* but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time
  
- VI) V6 AS YOU: Have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him
  - a) You received Jesus through grace and faith, so conduct yourselves daily in grace and faith
  
- VII) FACT: Grace and faith produce lives that are transformed
  - a) Believers actually live differently than those who don't know the Lord
    - 1) It is called the walk of a believer
    - 2) Eph 2:10 We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus *for good works*, which God prepared beforehand that we should *walk in them*.
    - 3) Eph 5:2 Walk in love
    - 4) 1 Jn 1:6-7 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His son cleanses us from all sin.
  
- VIII) QUESTION: How can we walk in Jesus and live blessed and fruitful lives
  - a) FIRST: We are to be rooted in Christ, Who is the source of all of our spiritual nourishment
    - 1) Rooted: Established, to cause a person or a thing to be thoroughly grounded
    - 2) Jn 15:4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.
  - l) SECOND: Built up (To finish the structure of which the foundation has already been laid)
    - a) POINT: To grow in Christian knowledge and in a life conformed to God's word

1) Eph 2:20-20 (You) having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord,

II) THIRD: Established (Firm, stable: Faith in Christ will give them stability in their lives)  
a) God will establish you, giving you stability as He blesses you  
1) 2 Co 1:21 He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us *is* God

III) V7 NOTICE: *As you have been taught* (the responsibility of every bible teacher)  
a) KEY: They are safeguarded by good and healthy teaching  
1) IMPORTANT: They are safeguarded by studying the word of God, and holding fast to it  
2) AC 20:32 (The word of His grace) is able to build you up

IV) THE FACT IS: Nothing beats a firm grasp of scripture, and doctrine  
a) Ps 119:130 The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.  
b) Ps. 19:7 The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple.

V) V8-10 BEWARE LEST *ANYONE* CHEAT YOU: Through philosophy and *empty deceit* according to the  
a) Do not fall into the trap of man's philosophy, because you have everything you need, in Jesus  
1) 2 Pe 1:3 His divine power has given us *everything* we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.  
2) Eph. 1:3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with *every spiritual blessing in Christ*.  
3) 2 Co. 5:21 For he has made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that *we might be made the righteousness of God in him*

VI) V10 AND: You are complete in Him who is the head of all principality and power  
a) His fullness is imparted to us: He who is the fullness of God has given us fullness in Him  
1) We are complete in Him, and do not need the false teachings of those promoting error

VII) V10 AND: You are complete in Him who is the head of all principality and power  
a) Jesus made it clear that we have all we need, in Him  
1) Jn 6:35 And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that comes to me shall never hunger; and he that believes on me shall never thirst.  
2) Jn 10:10 The thief comes not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.  
3) Mt. 11:28-30 Come unto me, all you that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and you shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.