

Week 05
025/340

Transforming Daily
“... a great conflict ...”
Colossians 2:1

The word “conflict” used here by Paul is better understood as “struggle.” Paul declared that he struggled with the situation of being apart from those at Colosse; those with which and to whom he desired to minister, still having not yet met them. Paul’s struggle included other ministries as well. His desire was to be with them. The struggle was in regard to his having to settle for a long distance discipleship of them for the time being. He also wanted to be an encouragement to them, but felt hampered especially in his present situation of imprisonment.

What caused the struggle within Paul? Why did he so desire to be with those at Colosse and those in Laodicea? In a word, love. It was the love of God on his life and through his life that he wanted to express to them that brought about this intense conflict; and now even more so because he was unavoidably and lawfully detained. The irony is that for this reason he was imprisoned. Paul was imprisoned for preaching the gospel of Christ, what turned out for him to be a common occurrence.

How intense was Paul’s love for others? He once said that if it were necessary and possible (which it wasn’t and isn’t on either account) he would trade his place in heaven for one of his countrymen. Wow! In essence, Paul was saying that he would be willing to spend eternity separated from God in hell for the sake of another. Suffice it to say, I ain’t there yet. Are you?

Praise God we don’t have to. Jesus Christ took care of that on Calvary so that whosoever will may be saved (He is the only one who can). However, it is our responsibility and privilege to love the sinner and the saint as Christ loves them and gave Himself for them. It’s all about God’s love.

What about you? Are you in conflict when you can’t share the love of Christ with someone? Does it bother you when circumstances prevail to keep you from sharing Jesus with others? Are you purposefully an encouragement to other believers? Do you value your discipleship enough to thank those who’ve invested their lives in your life, and in turn invest your life into the lives of others? Otherwise, do you find the prospect a great conflict?