

PREREQUISITE

COLOSSIANS 2:2, 3

How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)

BACKGROUND: “Fervent love is the necessary balance to a strong mind. Christianity is not mindless enthusiasm, but neither is it lifeless intellectual orthodoxy.” John MacArthur, The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: Colossians and Philemon, p.87.

BE ENCOURAGED. To be encouraged means to raise your confidence and hope in the Lord Jesus. This is accomplished through Bible study, meditation, prayer, Scripture exhortation, and fellowship with other believers. Sharing and receiving the truths of the gospel in a sense gives new heart. (**Colossians 2:2, Romans 1:11, 12, Romans 15:4, fn 15:4, Philemon 4-7, fn 4-7, Hebrews 10:25, fn 10:25**) *According to these Scriptures, how could you get encouragement when you need it?*

BE UNITED. Truth many times divides, but love has the potential to unite. “Love is always linked with humility, because only humble people can love...Humility is the key that opens the door of love and unity.” MacArthur, pp. 88-89. (**Colossians 2:2, Colossians 3:12-15, fn 3:14,15, Romans 15:5-7, fn 15:5-7, Romans 12:9,10, fn 12:9, fn 12:10, Philippians 2:1-5, fn 2:1-5**) *When the truth divides within your family, how could you, with God’s love, promote unity?*

FOR REVELATION. “Paul emphasizes that the revelation of God cannot be properly known apart from the cultivation of brotherly love within the Christian community.” F.F. Bruce, Commentary on the Epistles to the Ephesians and the Colossians, p.223. ““The deepest knowledge of the mystery of Christ comes from both the head and the heart. We must study the Scriptures about him intensely, with all our heart, and we must love him and his people with all our heart—and then we will know as we ought.” R. Kent Hughes, Colossians and Philemon: The Supremacy of Christ, p. 55. (**Colossians 2:2, 3, Ephesians 3:14-19, fn 3:17-19, I John 4:7-16, fn 4:12[1st], I Corinthians 8:1-3, fn 8:1-3, Revelation 2:2-7, fn 2:4, 5**) *Why is it God’s way to give revelation of Himself in the practice and the encouragement of brotherly love?*

According to this preparation how may we pray for you to be strengthened in your personal relationship with Jesus? How else may we pray for you?

