THE PASTOR'S BURDEN FOR HIS PEOPLE Colossians 2:1-7

Spiritual maturity is not reached by the passing of the years, but by obedience to the will of God.

-Oswald Chambers

1. Colossians 2:1-3 The Desire for Spiritual Maturity

- Expressed in strong hearts

- Expressed in single mindedness

- Expressed in certain understanding

2. Colossians 2:4-7 The Desire for Sanctified Living

- Expressed in discernment

- Expressed in obedience

I. Getting to Know You 1. What makes you laugh the most?

II. Into the Bible

2. For Paul, the best defense against error is a firm understanding of truth. This week's passage completes a section that emphasizes that Jesus Christ himself is not just our source of wisdom—he is wisdom itself.
1 Corinthians 1:20-31 is a parallel passage that contrasts human and divine wisdom. List the things that Paul says the world thinks of God's wisdom. What does Paul say that God's wisdom actually is?

3. Paul says to the Colossians in Colossians 2:6 that they don't need any new teaching. He speaks even more strongly in Galatians 1:6-10 about the sufficiency of the Gospel as they received it. What does he say should happen to preachers of any new gospel? What does he say is the reason people preach a different gospel? In Galatians 3:1-6, how does he describe people who listen to these teachers?

III. Application

4. Paul wants the Colossians to be knit together in love. Read Philippians 2:1-4. What are some practical suggestions for how we as a church can be knit together in love?

5. This passage is a practical conclusion to last week's message. The word struggling in Colossians 1:29 connects with "how great a struggle" in 2:1. Paul says that he struggles for his fellow believers. Are there areas in your life where you find it easier to give up than to fight?