

# SERMON OUTLINE Colossians 2:1-5

Struggling for Strangers

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***PAUL GREATLY STRUGGLED ON BEHALF OF OTHERS (1)***

***PAUL WANTED THEM TO KNOW HOW GREAT HIS STRUGGLE WAS FOR THEM (1)***

***PAUL STRUGGLED FOR STRANGERS (1, 5)***

***PAUL'S REASONS FOR GREATLY STRUGGLING FOR STRANGERS (2-4)***

*Encouraged Hearts (2)*

*Hearts Knit Together in Love (2)*

*All the Riches of Full Assurance of Understanding in Christ (2-3)*

*Undeluded with Plausible Arguments (4)*

# SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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## MAIN POINT

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The big idea of the sermon is that hard work for the things of God is a feature, not a flaw of a godly life. Predictably, the main takeaway is to learn to understand and love God's Word such that we're compelled to work hard at living it out for the sake of the world.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. What is the hardest you've ever worked? What's the longest? What have you determined is worth working your hardest for?
3. What do you think of this idea: In this world, God's design is leisure for work, not work for leisure.
4. Moms, what's the best and hardest part of being a mom?
5. Have you ever been encouraged by someone letting you know of their good works? Have you ever seen someone do it poorly?
6. What most encourages you in your faith? What is most discouraging to you?
7. How can you encourage someone else in their faith today? How can you encourage the moms of Grace Church?
8. Have you ever felt the pain of being torn apart in a relationship or the joy of being knit together in love in a relationship?
9. In what situation did you most want to know God's will for your life? What did you do to find it? Did you find it?
10. What kinds of "plausible arguments" have you encountered over the years? Have you been led astray by any of them?
11. How does working really hard relate to your salvation?
12. In what way/s did the sermon help you see the greatness of God?

## AREAS OF APPLICATION

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13. Identify one way God's Word calls you to work really hard on behalf of someone else. Prayerfully begin doing it and invite someone to join you in it.
14. Identify one way you are wrongly thinking of fruitfulness rather than faithfulness as success.
15. Support one of our missionaries or meet a new neighbor as a means of beginning to work hard for the good of a stranger.
16. Purposefully encourage someone in their faith this week. Someone weary, sick, or beat down and discouraged.
17. Purposefully do something specific, in love, to build unity at Grace Church or within your family this week.
18. Show honor to your mom or one of the moms of Grace Church.
19. Watch [The American Gospel](#) movies.
20. Give assurance, understanding, knowledge, and wisdom in Jesus, from God's Word to someone this week.
21. Ask someone to tell you one thing they got from this sermon and one way to pray for them in light of it.
22. Pick one specific thing you mean to do differently, with the Spirit's help, as a result of the things you heard in this text/sermon.

## PRAYER POINTS

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23. Adoration. Praise God that He is love. Praise God that in Him are all the riches of full assurance, wisdom, understanding and knowledge. Praise God that He is Triune. Praise God that He is omniscient and omnipotent. Praise God that He is personal.
24. Confession. Confess any laziness or fear that is keeping you from working hard at the things of God. Confess any ways you've been discouraging, unloving, divisive, misleading, disorderly, or weak in your faith.
25. Thanksgiving. Thank God that we will see Him face to face. Thank God that in the meantime we have His great and perfect promises. Thank God for faithful saints who brought you the gospel and revealed the mystery of Christ.
26. Supplication. Ask God to make us a hard-working, loving, sacrificial, wise, joyful, firm-faithed people. Ask God to make us a church that honors fathers and mothers. Ask God to use us to save, sanctify, and encourage others.