

Jesus Christ Is the Power and Wisdom of God

Colossians 2:3

Colossians 2:1-2

1 **For I want you to know how great a struggle I have on your behalf and for all those who are at Laodicea, and for all those who have not personally seen my face.**

(face-to-face teaching)

2 **that their hearts may be encouraged having been knit together in love, and attaining to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, resulting in a true knowledge of God's mystery, that is Christ *Himself*.**

First United together in or by **Spiritual Love.**

This means everyone is Filled with the Holy Spirit.

Everything in the Christian life starts with the Filling of the Holy Spirit by Grace through Faith.

Then With everyone in Spiritual Love,
our **hearts are encouraged**

How does this take place?

Hebrews 10:24

24 **and let us consider how to stimulate one another to Spiritual Love and good deeds,** how do we stimulate others to Spiritual Love? **not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging**

same word as in Colossians 2:2 **one another, and all the more as you see the day drawing near. Rapture**

Then
comes

full assurance that comes from understanding this comes from listening to the teaching of truth

And this
gives

the **attainment of all spiritual wealth**

Resulting

in a true knowledge of God's mystery, that is Christ.

And there, people, you have the design by JESUS CHRIST of the Local Church. So, **this wonderful process starts with the Filling of the Holy Spirit by Grace through Faith** RESULTING IN THE HOLY SPIRIT POURING IN HIS FRUIT OF SPIRITUAL LOVE.

This uniting in Spiritual Love encourages every believer of this assembly, where, now, they can together sit and listen to the teaching of the Word of Truth by a Pastor Teacher, which results in each one of them having a full assurance of understanding the Word of God, the Plan of God;

And having this assurance of understanding they realize their spiritual wealth in all areas of their spiritual lives; and this realization of their wealth results in the True Knowledge of God's Mystery—that is a true knowledge of the mystery of God, which is His Son, JESUS CHRIST.

Colossians 2:3

3 **in whom** that is in JESUS CHRIST **are hidden**
PRESENT ACTIVE INDICATIVE of the verb...
meaning hidden, secret, something concealed.

In the Greek, this is a predicate adjective which means this is a declaration by Paul about JESUS CHRIST. He is telling us something important about JESUS CHRIST and that is that in the person of JESUS CHRIST is hidden all the Treasures of Wisdom.

Now what is interesting about this word **hidden** is what JESUS CHRIST said in Mark 4:22

22 **For nothing is hidden, except to be revealed; nor has anything been secret, but that it would come to light**
JESUS CHRIST is prophetically referring to Himself.

For nothing is hidden, except to be revealed and people all that has been hidden throughout all Old Testament, some four to five thousand years – kept hidden by God, is now revealed in the coming of His Son.

Nor has anything been secret but that it would come to light
Why does JESUS CHRIST use this metaphor of light?

Because in John 1 the light has come into the world and He is that light that shines in Darkness of the world and in the Darkness of the soul of man. And in John 8:12

12 **Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world, he who follows me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.”**

And John 12:46

46 **“I have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness.”**

Note three things from this verse:

- (1) JESUS CHRIST is the light of the world.
- (2) So that everyone who believes in Him (not invite Him into their heart) but everyone who believes in Him shall not remain in Darkness.
- (3) Everyone who does not believe in Him will remain in darkness forever!

Colossians 2:3

3 **in whom are hidden**

The background of this entire passage is the ideal of mystery— 1:26-27 and now 2:2 ***True Knowledge of God’s Mystery*** and now in verse 3 **hidden treasures.**

But notice not just ‘treasures’, but **all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.**

Do you believe this?

Do you really believe that all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are all in Christ?

Do you spend every day increasing in the Knowledge of JESUS CHRIST?

Or, do you have enough treasure to satisfy you?

all treasures The Greek word means just that, treasure, riches.

Do you realize how many people gave up their lives to rush to California during the 'gold rush'?

Today people spend their lives striving for riches.

The Poor lust after what the Rich have and will vote Democratic for the Democrat's claim they will take from the Rich and give to the Poor. But history has shown... yes, they do take from the Rich but they do not give it to the Poor..., it goes into their pockets.

Politics is a great deal about who has wealth and how can I get it. But look at a lot of the most successful 'preachers' who advocate a prosperity gospel.

3 **In whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.**

All the treasures of wisdom *Sophia* where we get the English word sophomore. Here it refers to spiritual insight into the Word of God.

and knowledge *gnosis*

The great problem is that there are very few people who truly value the treasure of wisdom and knowledge. They lust after material wealth and material treasures.

In the first book of the bible... (first book given to us), the book of Job records the great search. **Job 28:1-11** describes man's endless search for treasures in the earth, his search for gold and silver.

¹ "Surely there is a mine for silver
And a place where they refine gold.

² "Iron is taken from the dust,
And copper is smelted from rock.

³ "*Man* puts an end to darkness,
And to the farthest limit he searches out
The rock in gloom and deep shadow.

⁴ "He sinks a shaft far from habitation,
Forgotten by the foot;
They hang and swing to and fro far from men.

⁵ "The earth, from it comes food,
And underneath it is turned up as fire.

⁶ "Its rocks are the source of sapphires,
And its dust *contains* gold.

⁷ "The path no bird of prey knows,
Nor has the falcon's eye caught sight of it.

⁸ "The proud beasts have not trodden it,
Nor has the *fierce* lion passed over it.

⁹ "He puts his hand on the flint;
He overturns the mountains at the base.

¹⁰ "He hews out channels through the rocks,
And his eye sees anything precious.

¹¹ "He dams up the streams from flowing,
And what is hidden he brings out to the light.

But then in Job 28:12

12 **But...where can wisdom be found?
And where is the place of understanding?**
The next line is a stern warning:
man does not know its value.

So, here is the question stated in the first book of the Bible... (Job) and answered in our book of Colossians.

In whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and Knowledge.

Now the question is why is Paul emphasizing *Wisdom and Knowledge*?

The entire region is being sieged upon by *false wisdom*, known as *Gnosticism*. While many Christians will not make it their goal in life to acquire all the Knowledge about JESUS CHRIST by studying the Word of God, they will get enthused with false wisdom. Paul, the caring apostle, recognized the great threat of these false doctrines to these new groups of Christians like those in Colossae and Laodicea. And Paul set out to combat these false teachings as much as he did of sin.

Look at his closing words to the young Pastor Teacher Timothy in 1 Timothy 6:20

20 **O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you**

Every Pastor Teacher should understand that by his being given the Spiritual gift of Pastor Teacher is his responsibility to guard and protect what has been entrusted to him, that is the Divinely inspired Word of God.

avoiding worldly and empty chatter and the opposing arguments of what is falsely called ‘knowledge’

This is the same word we have in our passage: *gnosis*.

I am so sorry that the King James translates this as *science* here while in Colossians 2:3 they correctly translate this as **knowledge**.

Staying here in 1 Timothy 6:20

20 **O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you**
And one way you keep that which has been entrusted to you, that is the Word of God, is by **avoiding worldly and empty chatter and the opposing arguments of what is falsely called ‘knowledge’** *gnosis*.

Look at **opposing arguments** teaching that opposes the truth of Scripture that he has been taught. People, it is the Pastor Teacher’s responsibility to guard his assembly against these opposing arguments.

Note the word **opposing** Greek word *antithesis*, made up of *anti* against plus *tithemi* to place; to place against or in opposition, contrary English word ‘antithesis’.

You must understand that for every sound doctrine in the Word of God, Satan has an opposing doctrine.

Salvation by Grace through Faith—he opposes with Salvation by works or universalism.

Wisdom found in Christ is countered by Gnosticism.

and the opposing arguments of what is falsely called

This is an interesting word, and while used only here in New Testament is used in classical Greek writings and means just that –falsely named.

Example: if justice seems to serve the unjust then justice is falsely named justice. And here in 1 Timothy if something opposes sound doctrine in the Word of God, it is falsely called “knowledge”.

1 Timothy 6:20

20 **O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you avoiding worldly and empty chatter**

This refers to Godless conversations –an accepted morality that is Godless, not of the Holy Spirit, and traditions from the past that have no soundness in them whatsoever.

and the opposing arguments of what is falsely called ‘knowledge’

21 **which some have professed** to announce that they believe this false doctrine **and thus gone astray from the faith**

Here the word *FAITH* is used to refer to that which is believed. Here are believers who have gone astray from Truth. Not in personal sins, but in **WHAT THEY BELIEVE**.

It is one thing to sin, and to acknowledge that it is sin, but it is another issue entirely to change **WHAT YOU BELIEVE**.

This warning by Paul to young Pastor Teachers goes beyond just warning against Gnosticism. It is much more involved. It refers to *unsound doctrine* that attacks many believers.

Things involving the Law

Legalism

and acts that are really sins

and those that legalists preach

Prophecy

and the list goes on and on.

In the first century when the churches were not that long established... False doctrine was the cause of many church splits, as it should be.

Look at the church of Thyatira in Revelation 2:18-29.

But to added importance to our study note in 24.

24 **Deep things of Satan—as they call them**

So many believers are so attracted to *new and deep* teachings.

Things that appeal to the ability to think in these high—deep thoughts. It makes them think they are special, they are on to something *new*. And then they cause divisions in a local assembly of believers.

1 Timothy 4:1

1 **But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some believers will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons.**

These are the ‘deep things of Satan’.

Look at just some of these ‘**deep things of Satan**’, ‘**doctrines of demons**’ in our world today that is besieging the local church and denominations:

Universalism, and the many branches of New Age!—everyone is god... and we strive to be at the level of JESUS CHRIST;

Mormonism;

Jehovah’s Witnesses;

Seventh-day Adventism;

Unification Church;

Christian Science;

Unity School of Christianity;

Wicca—which believes that humanity is not sinful and, therefore, does not need to be saved.;

Scientology;

Islam—Chrislam;

Hare Krishna;

Hinduism—making a big revival in America—very strong in reincarnation;

Transcendental Meditation;

Buddhism –which is also under revival in America—
salvation is freeing yourself of all lust and desires
escaping sufferings’

And the list goes on...

The doctrines of demons, the deep things of Satan are strongly grounded in the teaching that there is no hell, there is no eternal punishment; that everyone is saved from these things to a good eternal existence – which takes away any responsibility of faith in JESUS CHRIST.

In almost every one of these “doctrines of demons”
is one of two views of JESUS CHRIST:

He did not exist or is not important,

or

He was a good man who taught love and forgiveness.

**People, JESUS CHRIST is either a liar, or a madman
Or
HE IS ALL HE CLAIMS TO BE:
The Son of God, the Only Savior for all mankind.**

But to those of us
who are Saved by Faith in the Person and Work of JESUS CHRIST,
JESUS CHRIST is the Power of God and the Wisdom of God and...

In Him are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.