

Don't be Deceived by Clever Arguments
That Lead Away from
The Truth of The Word of God.

Colossians 2:4

Colossians 2:3

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

IF YOU DESIRE WISDOM

about God, creation, heaven, hell:
you will find it in

*increasing the Knowledge of
JESUS CHRIST.*

IF YOU DESIRE WISDOM

about life, marriage, sex, finances,
solving problems in life:
you will find it in

*increasing the Knowledge of
JESUS CHRIST.*

IF YOU DESIRE WISDOM

about the world, politics,
understanding the past, present and the future:
you will find it in increasing in the

Knowledge of JESUS CHRIST.

IF YOU DESIRE WISDOM

about morality, sex, drugs,
addictions phonography:
you will find it in increasing in the
Knowledge of JESUS CHRIST.

IF YOU DESIRE WISDOM

on forgiveness, love, revenge:
you will find it in increasing in the
Knowledge of JESUS CHRIST.

IF YOU DESIRE WISDOM

on inner peace, happiness,
contentment with life:
you will find it in increasing in the
Knowledge of JESUS CHRIST.

Knowledge of the Messiah

has always been the stability of people,
especially, when times are very bad.

Isaiah 33:5-6

5 The LORD is exalted, for He dwells on high;
He has filled Zion with justice and righteousness.

6 **He** (this refers to YHWH of verse 5) The Lord YHWH is exalted (by God, the only One Who matters) **for He dwells on high**

In our study of the Ascension of JESUS CHRIST we noted John 6:62.

62 **What then if you see the Son of Man ascending to where He was before.**

That is before He descended to earth as the Son of Man, and where was He before?

This is answered here in **Isaiah 33:5**

5 **YHWH is exalted for He dwells on high He has filled Zion with Justice and righteousness.**

So many people—Christians are so occupied with Love – emphasizing love over righteousness. But, if we carefully study the Word of God, God desires righteousness.

6 Now verse 6 **And He will be the Stability of your times**
NIV **He will be the sure foundation of your times**

OTHER TRANSLATIONS:

Security These three words **Stability**, **Sure Foundation** and **Security** are attempts at translating the Hebrew word that means *FAITHFULNESS* (margin of NASV).

Why do they use words such as *stability*, *sure foundation*, and *security* instead of Faithfulness?

Get ready you are getting ready to learn something extremely important in your own personal lives.

STABILITY in your life comes from the **Faithfulness** of God.

The **SURE FOUNDATION** in your life is the **Faithfulness** of God and

SECURITY in your life results from the **Faithfulness** of God.

But **WISDOM**

understands that this works the other way also.

STABILITY in life

comes from your own **Faithfulness** to God.

The **SURE FOUNDATION** in your life is **Faithfulness** to the Word of God and

SECURITY in your life

is result of **Faithfulness** to the Holy Spirit (to walk by **Faith** in the Holy Spirit).

So, continuing Isaiah 33:6

6 **For He will be the stability of your times (by His Faithfulness)**

Why does the Holy Spirit say: **of your times**?

This refers to when things are going against the Plan of God! Politically and economically things are really bad at this point in your life and in the life of your nation. Where are you going to

find **Stability**? Upon what **foundation** are you going to build? Especially, when the **foundation** of your nation is falling apart?

The Babylonians are coming against the Southern Kingdom, the nation of Judah is falling apart?

So where are they going to find stability?

It will be found in the Faithfulness of God.

A wealth of salvation

OK, here we learn more: we have seen that our spirituality (—how we are Filled with the Holy Spirit—) is patterned after how we are saved eternally. That every time we go to Faith in the Holy Spirit it resembles how we were saved eternally by Faith in JESUS CHRIST — both can be called ‘**salvations**’ or ‘**deliverances**’ and these are just two of the multitude of **deliverances** God will give to every individual who will just trust Him.

6 **For He will be the stability of your times (by His Faithfulness) A wealth of salvation, wisdom and Knowledge**

This is the same concept we are looking at in Colossians 2:3. The sooner a believer learns that **JESUS CHRIST is the Wisdom of God** and that **True or Valued Knowledge** for your life, that believer has the beginning of a life of stability and peace.

Now in verse 4 we have the momentum of chapter 2.

COLOSSIANS 2:4

4 **I say this so that no one will delude you with persuasive argument.**

We know of the dangers of 'Sins';

Personal Sins

Mental Attitude Sins

Sins of the Tongue

Overt Sins

but there is another great danger besieging every believer.

Persuasive arguments that go against sound doctrine but these persuasive arguments are made to sound so sound, so right, that multitude of believers are led astray.

This will be further laid out in verse 8 **see to it that no one takes you captive though philosophy and empty deception.**

*A used car salesman can make a clunker sound so good!
A false teacher can make an empty doctrine sound so solid.*

I say

If you are a 'wise' person you know how important this phrase is in life. Multitude of people are still fooled by the old adage: *'the eyes are the window to the soul'* and then they think you can tell what a person is thinking by watching their eyes.

And many are fooled because people can fake-you-out. Many people marry the wrong person because they looked into the eyes, instead of the soul. A good con-artist, a smooth-talking wolf, or an eloquent talking preacher!!!!

I say

The verb denotes that Paul keeps on saying... and the verb means to communicate;

This comes from *logos* meaning **words**! We think with words.

We may speak different languages but we still think with words.

*And like with the eyes
people can lie, or speak lies and you will not know it,
unless you know the Truth.*

And this is what Paul is saying.

I communicate biblical truth and in verse 7 he reminds them of the effect of his teaching them: **you have been firmly rooted.**

I say this

Here is the real secret and test of what one says—is it Truth?

I say or I communicate this

This refers to verse 3. Here is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge—it is found in Jesus Christ; and the reason Paul makes it very clear where Wisdom and Knowledge are to be found is **so that for the purpose that no one.**

All through the book of Galatians is the elusive someone who seeks to disturb your spiritual lives by distorting the Truth:

Galatians 1:6-7

6 I am amazed that you are **so quickly** deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel;

7 which is *really* not **another**; only there are some who are **disturbing you** and **want to distort the gospel of Christ**

or Galatians 3:1

1 You non-thinking Galatians, who has charmed you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified?

or Galatians 5:7

7 you were running well; who hindered you from obeying the truth?

The answer as to 'WHO' this is referring may vary but always with Satan behind the corruption of truth.

How do we know this?

From the beginning, he has corrupted the truth. In Genesis 3 Satan came to the woman and *distorted* the Word of God just a little and she listened to him and fell; then she led her husband to his fall.

The point is that there is always someone who will come along and distort the truth and there will always be born again believers who will listen and be disturbed from the Truth.

As a policeman making a routine domestic call, you must be alert at all times.

We have seen how important it is to pay close attention to whom you listen to in the teaching of the Word of God, but you must be on guard at all times, you may be led astray by listening to someone who makes immorality, sound ok. Or someone who can make Communistic Socialism sound favorable. And then you are on your way of being hindered from the truth of wisdom in Christ.

Colossians 2:3

3 **in Christ are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge...I communicate this (to you—for your advantage) so that no one will delude you.**

This is one of those rich words in the Greek, and I am going to show you this word because this is what happens to so many Christians, in the first century of the Church and today.

And I do not want this to happen to any of you.

The Greek word is ***paralogizomai*** this Greek word is made up of prepositional prefix '***para***' which carries the idea of ***aside*** implying ***error*** plus the word '***logizomai***' which really means "**to exercise one's reason**".

Therefore, this word means to 'to reason falsely or incorrectly'. In Classical Greek, this word was used in 'cheating through false reasoning'. It strongly carried the idea of 'cheating'.

So many people have married the wrong person because they were deluded—that is the other person (male or female) cheated them by all they said, and they made it sound so-o-o-o good and truthful but it is a lie!

While this Greek word is used only twice in the New Testament it is used often in the Septuagint (Old Testament in Greek).

Septuagint is from the Latin meaning '70' for there were some 70 scholars who translated the Hebrew text into Greek, for even in Israel at this time most people spoke **Koine** Greek (common Greek).

This translation was a work that began in around 280-245 BC. It is to the benefit of one who when studying the Old Testament or the New Testament to consult the Septuagint to see how both Hebrew and Greek words were understood and used.

A few good places to see how this Greek word was understood is in the story where Laban 'deceived' Jacob by giving Jacob his daughter Leah instead of Rachel.

Genesis 29:25

25 **So it came about in the morning that, behold, it was Leah!** That he slept with **And he** Jacob **said to Laban;**
What is this you have done to me? Was it not for Rachel that I served with you? Why then have you deceived me?

You can see from this context that Jacob felt cheated.

This word is used by Delilah in accusing Samson of deceiving her as to his strength. (Judges 16:10, 13, and 15)

The Greek word is used twice.

It is used in James to describe how a believer can 'deceive' themselves by not practicing the truth of Scripture taught to them. (James 1:22)

It is used in our study in Colossians 2:4.

Colossians 2:3

1 **in Christ are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge... I communicate this (to you—for your advantage) so that no one will delude you *by persuasive rhetoric that deceives you away from the truth.***

There were so many deceptive doctrines being presented to the church. Idolatry from Gnosticism, worship of angels (verse 18) and of course Legalism (2:16 and 21-22). The entire chapter 2 is devoted to battling against false doctrines... the doctrine of demons or the deep things of Satan (Revelation 2:24).

Dear people, we cannot rush through this chapter; it is important that everyone of us be warned against arguments that lead us away from the Truth—that distort the Truth. That try to just tweet the Truth and by so doing, destroy the Truth and damage all those who fall into it.

Colossians 2:3-4

3-4 **I teach you that all Wisdom and Knowledge are found only in JESUS CHRIST, and I teach you this in order that no one deceives you by twisting the truth with persuasive argument**

KJ	•>	beguile you with enticing words
NIV	•>	deceive you with fine-sounding arguments
New Living Translation	•>	deceive you with fine-sounding arguments
English Standard Version	•>	delude you with plausible arguments
Berean Study Bible	•>	deceive you by smooth rhetoric
Berean Literal Bible	•>	delude you by persuasive speech
International Standard Version	•>	mislead you with nice-sounding rhetoric
Net Bible	•>	deceive you through arguments that sound reasonable

Ok, we went through each of these so you could grasp two things:

What their objective is:

deceive you, beguile you, delude you, mislead you, lead you astray.

So...FIRST question:

Deceive you about what?

Mislead you from what?

Lead you astray from What?

Answer:

The Wisdom and Knowledge that are known only through Jesus Christ.

SECOND question:

How do they contrive to lead you astray?

Answer:

By or with persuasive argument;

enticing words,

fine sounding arguments,

well-crafted arguments,

with plausible arguments,

smooth rhetoric,

persuasive speech,

nice sounding rhetoric,

arguments that sound reasonable, and of course,

by false reasoning in the sphere of specious discourse.

Have you ever run into someone who can make **evolution** sound so right?... so... reasonable?

Have you heard the rhetoric that homosexuality is fine?

And how about putting together arguments that **everyone is saved,**

there is **no hell** to be concerned with, and

*they twist verses of the bible
to make their argument sound so plausible?*

Or as Paul says in Galatians 1, they distort the gospel where works sounds so logical that man must **do** something to be saved.

Or how about making the works of man... of confession... or repentance the means of being restored from sin?
Which Paul will straighten out in 2:6.

One more point before we move on to verse 5.

That no one delude you This is a PRESENT MIDDLE SUBJUNCTIVE and the SUBJUNCTIVE is important here.

This says that while some will be deceived,

not everyone will be deceived.

IT IS UP TO EACH ONE OF YOU
whether or not you are deceived or
led astray from the truth by fine-sounding arguments.

Remember,

just because you cannot answer a question or an argument, does not mean that the argument is correct!

So often in college, some professor who has worked on the subject for some time, can ask questions or make an argument sound so plausible, and because the student does not have an answer he assumes it is right.

Wrong—you just wait until you have a chance to search out the Truth in the Word of God. Man can make ‘the lie’ sound like the truth. This is because of the way they think.

Ephesians 4:17

17 **So this I say, same construction as in Colossians 2:4 and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind**

The Greek word translated **futility** means **vanity, futility, worthlessness** even **depravity**. In classical Greek, this word indicates a **lack** of or **attainment of true purpose**.

And when you put this Greek word in the translation of Ecclesiastes 1:2 and 14 it means that all that is worked for or

accomplished or gathered (as one gathers riches) is vanity—blows away with the wind, in contrast to those things that are related to Eternity!

You can live your life in reference to time or eternity—it is up to you to choose; and if you choose to live in reference to time, to this earth, you live your life in vanity... wasted works.

What is interesting in our study of Colossians 2 is that this word includes such concepts as folly, fault, and can mean deceptive, groundless.

When something is *mataiotes* (our word) it is something **contrary** to the Truth and **refers to something worthless.**

Here in Ephesians 4:17 it refers to depravity of the mind... like Romans 1 ...**being wise they became fools.** Depravity of mind that affects the way of life.

Colossians 2:3-6

3 **In JESUS CHRIST are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge,**

4 **I say this –I am telling you this, so that no one deludes you with persuasive argument.**

5 **For** (introduces an explanation for things he is saying in this epistle That all Wisdom and Knowledge is in JESUS CHRIST and that there are many who seek to lead them astray from the truth) **even though** (or since) **I am absent in**

body, nevertheless I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good discipline and the stability of your faith in Christ.

6 **Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, *so* walk! in Him,**

This is the way JESUS CHRIST, as head of the Church set things up... face-to-face teaching by one Pastor-Teacher over one congregation; but at the very beginning JESUS CHRIST appointed a few apostles... Paul is one of these apostles and there are no apostles in the Church today.

There are men who are gifted by God the Holy Spirit with the gift of Pastor-Teacher. Paul is in prison in Rome where he receives reports on what is going on in this assembly, as well as other assemblies, and he cares so much for them that he is writing this epistle.

In fact, he will write all the Prison Epistles from prison in Rome. This is the attitude that every Pastor-Teacher should constantly have toward his assembly with whom he is present.

Paul was in prison in Rome and from here he
—under the leading of the Holy Spirit—
wrote Philippians, Ephesians and Colossians (Prison Epistles).

PRINCIPLE:

It does not matter where you are or the circumstances you are in or even why you got there.

What matters is this.

“Are you going to give up and feel sorry for yourself or are you going to walk by Faith in the Holy Spirit and see what God is going to do in your life.”

Paul is absent but he uses his gift of apostleship and writes to these churches and God the Holy Spirit has made these letters part of the divinely Inspired Word of God or The Bible.

With the completed canon of Scripture there is now no need for apostles, but men gifted by the Holy Spirit to study and teach the Word of God. What Paul wrote to the Colossians is just as true and necessary today as it was when the Holy Spirit inspired Paul to write it.

This is true of every book in the New Testament and the Old Testament as well.

**The ministry of the Holy Spirit
is seen in five ways in respect to the Scriptures.**

1. In His inspiring the writers to write what God wanted written without changing their personality or vocabulary.
2. Preserving the written word.
3. In His ministry in having just the exact 66 books that God desired to be part of the Word of God.
4. Preserving the integrity of the Bible throughout the Church Age.

5. Illuminating the truth in every believer who under His power opens and studies the Word of God. No one can correctly, spiritually understand the Word of God without the illuminating ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Colossians 2:5

5 **for even though I am absent in body nevertheless I am with you in Spirit.** The NASV has left out a very important DEFINITE ARTICLE that is present in the King James; **I am with you in THE SPIRIT.** Paul is referring to being together with them in the power and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

1. The presence of the DEFINITE ARTICLE points to the fact that Paul is referring to the third person of the Godhead... *the Spirit*.
2. This is the same Principle as found in **Matthew 18:20**
For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst. JESUS CHRIST describes the Holy Spirit as another *parakletos* just like Him, only He would be in Spirit.
3. In the context of Colossians 2:5-6 Paul speaks of how we are Filled with the Holy Spirit and in fellowship with the

Holy Spirit. By the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the Filling of the Holy Spirit Paul and these believers are united in Christ.

Even though I am absent in body nevertheless I am with in (or by means of the Holy Spirit).

4. There is no preposition **in the Spirit** the passage simply says **by means of The Spirit I am with you rejoicing to see your good discipline and the stability of your faith in Christ.**

Rejoicing: First this is inner happiness that comes as a fruit of the Holy Spirit...

fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace: If these three are lacking in your life—let the absence be a reminder that you are not in the power of the Holy Spirit and you are not in the Wisdom and Knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Then there is the added impulse of this inner happiness by seeing others stable in their Faith in JESUS CHRIST.

People, this should be true of every Pastor-Teacher: Receiving inner happiness by watching those who listen to his teaching walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.

But this is not only confined to Pastor-Teachers...; Every parent who truly loves their children find the greatest inner happiness in watching their children walk with the Lord. Not in their success as the world sees success but in their children's own Happiness by walking by Faith in the Holy Spirit and growing in the Wisdom and Knowledge that is found ONLY in Jesus Christ.

Rejoicing seeing your good discipline We could spend hours on the importance of *self-discipline* in the Christian life.

FIRST: Self-discipline to walk by Faith in the Holy Spirit—coming up in verse 6.

SECOND: Discipline in consistency in growing in the Knowledge of JESUS CHRIST; in His Wisdom and Knowledge. This is discipline to make attending the local church the number one priority in life.

Today there are literally a thousand things to distract from a disciplined life in just being consistent in the assembly, increasing in the Knowledge of God (Colossians 1:10) and growing in the Knowledge of JESUS CHRIST. (2 Pet. 3:18).

THIRD: Living a discipline life that honors and glorifies JESUS CHRIST.

And the stability of your Faith in Christ.

We saw this in Isaiah 33:5 where when we discipline our lives to be Faithful –causes our lives to be stable, have a solid foundation and secure.

So, dear people,
if you wish to have a stable, secure life,
marriage built on a solid foundation—

THEN YOU WILL FIND THIS

in the Wisdom and Knowledge of JESUS CHRIST in His Word.

