

Oxford Baptist Church – Mar 3, 2024 – Robin W. Pifer
Colossians – “The Mystery and Treasures of God” – Col 2:1-5

Main Thought:

We avoid spiritual deception by having full assurance and maturity in Jesus Christ.

Paul's hard work for the church shows his love and concern for their spiritual life | v1

- Paul laboured and struggled in prayer for the church.
- Pastors, leaders, and mature believers are to work hard to mature the local church.
- What was the evidence in the church of full assurance in Christ?

Paul's goal for the church is to encourage their hearts, be united in love, & increase their knowledge of Christ | v2-3

- Encouraged in Heart
- Knitted together in Love. (Love for God and each other)
- Full Assurance of Understanding and Knowledge.
Colossians 4:12
- The mystery is Christ.
- In Christ are hidden all the treasures of Wisdom and Knowledge.

Paul's warning is to beware of persuasive arguments that draw us away from Christ | v4-5

- Why do we need to have full assurance in Jesus Christ?
- Salvation is the work of Christ confirmed by the Holy Spirit. Romans 8:12-17
- No one deceives you with “fine-sounding arguments”.
- Paul was aware of false teachers trying to influence with their plausible but deceptive words.
- What plausible arguments are happening today?
- You are disciplined in Christ.
- You are firm in your faith.

- The church is to be discerning, standing firm in their faith in Jesus Christ, who is the head of the body, the church.
- Spiritual maturity results from knowing and growing in Jesus Christ..

Applications

- Are we trusting in Jesus Christ? Are we following him? Is our faith maturing?
- Are we concerned for younger believers to have a mature faith in Christ?
- Are we committed to protecting the church from those who try to deceive the people of God?
- What are some ways today that followers of Christ are being tempted away from Jesus Christ?
- Why is checking the scriptures so important in dealing with the current deceptions in the world?
- Why is it important for believers to be together in a local church rather than isolated to prevent personal error?
- Take time to Read Romans 8 and Galatians 5. How do these chapters emphasize a “Spirit-filled” walk with Christ to keep us from deception?