



Sermon: "Christ is Preeminent in Work & Ministry"

Scripture: Colossians 1:24-2:5, Part 2

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Introduction: A Colossal Struggle in the Spiritual Realm. (2:1)

Scriptures: 1 Peter 5:8-9; Ephesians 6:12

- Satan's efforts to **isolate** and **deceive** individuals are at the heart of spiritual conflict.

Paul intently prayed for Christian work in spiritual conflict:

1. Christ-Centered Fellowship: Guarding the Church Against Dangerous Isolation. (2:2a)

**The church is to be an interwoven community of loving believers,
drawing one another towards the knowledge and wisdom of Christ!**

A. True Christian encouragement calls other believers to **know Christ.**

Scriptures: Hebrews 10:24-25; Ephesians 4:15-16, 29

- You can encourage others when you **SHOW UP**. (Hebrews 10: 25)
- You can encourage others when you **STIR UP**. (Hebrews 10:24)
- You can encourage others when you **SPEAK UP**. (Ephesians 4:29)
- You can encourage others when you **GROW UP**. (1 Timothy 4:15; Matthew 5:16)

B. True Christian community compels other believers to **love Christ.**

2. Christ-Centered Discipleship: Guarding the Church Against Deadly Deception. (2:3-4)

A. Discipleship leads the believer towards the **assurance of the knowledge of Christ.**

B. Discipleship leads the believer towards the **blessings of the wisdom of Christ.**

Scripture: Proverbs 2:1-6

- The Christian life is not to be lived tossed about by various teachings or trials, but it is to be a life of ever-deepening roots of faith in the reality and riches of Jesus Christ!

Scripture: Ephesians 4:14; James 1:2-5

Conclusion: (2:5)

A healthy church is not about WHAT we know, but WHO we know and HOW WELL we know **Christ!**

Questions to Consider:

1. If we believe that we are engaged in a spiritual conflict, how will it change our view of the church?
2. What are some ways that we get isolated spiritually? How can healthy fellowship overcome isolation?
3. What are some differences between Christ-centered fellowship and imitation fellowship?
4. In what ways do you most need to grow in the ministry of encouragement in the body of Christ?
5. What is the difference between the knowledge and wisdom of Christ? Can you have one without the other?
6. How do fellowship and discipleship ultimately guard against the deception of Satan?