

Sermon Discussion Questions & Follow-up Notes

January 18, 2026 // Pastor Andrew Keuer (andrew@firstprotestant.com)

Sermon Text: Colossians 2:1-12 Series: "Colossians: A Primary in Wise Spirituality"

Sermon Title: "Where can Wisdom be Found?"

Link to sermon: <https://youtu.be/vDPtqLwCjC8?t=1624>

Key Points & Observations of the Text

It is suggested to read the passage (Colossians 2:1-12) aloud as a group.

The big idea: Every person will cry out with Job (see 28:13-14), "where can I find wisdom?" Proverbs 2 says God will give wisdom to those who seek it with the intensity of a great amount of wealth. And Colossians 2 claims that this wisdom we long for and can seek, is buried in Christ who is stitched into the community of believers.

I. The background to the wisdom crisis in the Colossian church

- Paul says he agonizes over this little church that meets in Philemon's house (see Philemon 2). The word "agonizes" in the original Greek text of Colossians 2:1 is literally "in competition".
- This church had been founded by Epaphras (see Col. 4:12), who (scholars surmise) was a young man from Colossae who had probably converted through Paul's ~three year ministry in Ephesus (see Acts 19). Epaphras was so moved by the Gospel, that he wanted to take it to his hometown.
- After their conversion (see Col. 1:21), distracting spiritual gurus entered this little church, seeking a platform and a following. Paul says these spiritual gurus were spiritual salesmen, smooth talkers – who could be identified by their "fine-sounding arguments" (v4) and "hollow and deceptive philosophy" (v8). We're unsure of their overall message, but the upshot of what they said is that this little church needs more than just what the Apostle Paul's saving Christ provided them.
- **Discussion:** Martin Luther (1483-1546) once observed: "Wherever God founds a church, satan builds a chapel next door." How does this statement strike you? Do you agree that satan is interested in 'religion' / 'spirituality'? And that his chief work is mimicry of true men/women/movements of God, seeking to produce confusion?

II. The threat to tear apart spiritual community

- In every age, the powers of darkness seek to tear apart the unity of local churches who are founded upon the truth of the Triune God.
- One recent example is what sociologists call "digital isolation". Strangely, communication technologies, if overused or misused, lead people to distance themselves from actual face-to-face community.
- **Discussion:** What do you think of this statement from noted biblical scholar NT Wright: "The word became flesh, said St. John, and [we have] turned the flesh back into words... But what changes the world is flesh, words with skin on them, words that hug you and cry with you and play with you and love you and rebuke you and build houses with you and teach your children in school."

III. Hidden wisdom embedded in the church God creates

- Paul's message is that this little church can be encouraged by letting God keep them knit together as a church based upon the Gospel of God's love in Jesus Christ (v2).
- The wisdom of God that is now hidden in Jesus Christ, Paul proclaims, is found in Christ's presence in the local church. Thus, Christians who seek wisdom should commit themselves to the church's "good order" (Col. 2:5), for herein God has placed the whole fullness of deity in bodily form (Col. 2:9-10).
- **Discussion:** What do you think of this picture below, that hangs in the student center at Notre Dame?

