

Colossians 2:4-7

"Our Heads" 11-17-24

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And, Satan will oppose both with all he's got, but ...

2 Corinthians 2:11

"so that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes."

His biggest schemes/goals are to <u>divide</u> us and <u>deceive</u> us

The antedotes to his biggest schemes are Truth and Love

The 2 fundamentals of the Christian life and of the healthy church are always —

Truth and Love

Paul starts with the foundation of Love last week – now, rooted and grounded there – having unlocked all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge – Christ – he continues ...

We must stay vigilant against being deceived - vv. 4 & 8

1. We must understand that the deceptions we have to look out for will sound reasonable to a certain degree – v.4

1 John 4:1

Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

2. We must follow a well-ordered approach – v.5

We want to keep the balance between a God-led, wise structure, and a wide-open openness to God's unexpected leadership.

1 Corinthians 14:33

For God is not a God of disorder but of peace—as in all the congregations of the Lord's people.

Ephesians 4:1-15

We discern together – we rely on a group/team of mature, wise, Spirit-filled leaders whom we endow with authority

We search the scriptures and process them together – Acts 17:11

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Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

Ephesians 4

14 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming.

15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of Him who is the head, that is, Christ. 16 From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its

- 1. Do the arguments violate scripture?
 - 2. Do they serve to honor Jesus as Lord? v. 6
 - 3. Do they strengthen our faith in Jesus? vv. 5,7

3. We must always keep it simple. v.6

The nature of our development in the faith is the same as our birth into the faith — simple grace through faith — it's all/only Jesus and our simple, child-like trusting of Him

The most powerful force on earth is the church – a group of Spirit-filled believers in Jesus walking in Truth and Love!

