Hidden Treasure

**Colossians 2:1-5  ESV**

**1**For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face, **2**that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, **3**in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. **4**I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments. **5**For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ.

**Staying strong in Jesus takes a church family who is:**

**1) Concerned** about discouragement seeping into others walk with Jesus.  **v1-2a**

**1**For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face, **2**that their hearts may be encouraged…  *(NLT* ***1****I want you to know how much I have agonized for you and for the church at Laodicea, and for many other believers who have never met me personally.****2****I want them to be encouraged…)*

**2)** **Connected** with one another in love & learning.  **v2**

**2**… being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of under-standing and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ… *(NLT …and knit together by strong ties of love. I want them to have complete confidence that they understand God’s mysterious plan, which is Christ Himself)*

**3)** **Content** with ‘mining’ the treasures found in Christ – FOREVER!  **v3**

**3**in ‘Whom’ are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge *(NLT* ***3****In Him lie hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge)*

**4)** **Cautious** of smooth talking deceivers offering Christ and …    **v4**

**4**I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments *(****4****I am telling you this so no one will deceive you with well-crafted arguments)*.

**5)** **Confident** and joyful in the assurance & foundation we have in Christ.  **v5**

 **5**For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ *(****5****For though I am far away from you, my heart is with you. And I rejoice that you are living as you should and that your faith in Christ is strong)*.