



## Introduction to “Fully Known”

In our passage, Colossians 1:24-2:5, God reveals to us amazing dynamics occurring in the early church as the gospel is made fully known amongst all peoples. The effects that are being produced are pretty remarkable. Paul desires so badly for the Colossians to stick to the gospel and not stray from it, and as a result, experience its full benefits. We have already been told that in Christ “all the *fullness* of God was pleased to dwell (Colossians 1:19), both revealing God to us and bringing salvation to us.

If you remember, Paul has not really had a chance to get to know the Colossians yet. In this part of the letter first, he makes the power of his ministry known to them. Second, he invites them to experience more of the riches of fully knowing the Gospel, God’s mystery which has now been revealed to all. Third, we see the

value and treasures of spiritual maturity, experiencing the fullness of life God created us to live.

### **Colossians Focus:**

The preeminence (superiority, excellence, distinguished, surpassing nature) of Christ in all of life (1:18).

## **Part 4: Fully Known**

Text: Colossians 1:24-2:5

1:24-29, Testimony of Paul's Ministry

2:1-5, Purpose of Paul's Ministry

Big Idea: Knowing God, and being fully known by God, produces powerful effects in our lives.

From the Sermon (add your own notes here):

1. The Strengths in Paul's Ministry.
  
2. The Riches in God's Mystery.
  
3. The Treasures in Spiritual Maturity.

## **Getting Started**

What are some obstacles that prevent people from knowing each other more deeply?

Someone once said, "The quality of your life is determined by the quality of your relationships." What is it about relationships that is so central to life?

## Digging Deeper

1. Verse 1:24, For what purpose(s) is Paul able to rejoice in his sufferings? What are some of the sufferings Paul had to face in his ministry? (See 2 Cor 11:23-29)
  
2. Verse 2:1-2, What is it that Paul wants them to know, so that they might be encouraged? What are some things that encourage your heart to be filled with faith?
  
3. Verse 2:2, What are some things that help people be knit together in love? In other words, what is necessary for people to be knit together in love?
  
4. As we consider the riches of the mystery (1:25-27, 2:2-3) of the good news how do the following truths impact our day to day living:
  - a. That we have already been justified in Christ, ie been reconciled to God (1:20)
  - b. That the blood of Jesus on the cross is making peace (1:20)
  - c. That God is working to present us holy and blameless (1:22)
  - d. That we need not shift to anything other than the hope of the gospel (1:23)
  
5. What role does warning play (1:28) in the Christian life and community? What should the goal of warning and teaching be (see 1:28)? Discuss what that result looks like.

6. See 1:29, What is your experience of God's energy working in you, both for sanctification and for works of ministry?
  
7. Verse 2:5, What does good order look like in a Christian home (particularly in relationships, beyond cleaning and cooking and organization :-)
  
8. Verse 2:5, What does firmness in faith in Christ provide, particularly in relation to verse 2:4?

### Live It Out

**Pray:** Look again at the text. Use this passage to pray. Pray for one another with it as well.

**Confess:** Identify (to yourself) an area where you failed in demonstrating spiritual maturity in the last week. What spiritual truth, Bible Verse, Word, might you need to rely upon? Share with the group.

**Act:** Listen to the song "[Known](#)." This week set aside some moments to talk to God about whatever is on your heart and mind. Also, spend time practicing listening and sharing with others, with a desire to know and be fully known.