Series: Greater Than

Passage: Colossians: 1:24-2:5

Sunday: April 30, 2023

## Colossians 1:24-2:5 (ESV)

## Paul's Ministry to the Church

<sup>24</sup> Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church, <sup>25</sup> of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, <sup>26</sup> the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. <sup>27</sup> To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. <sup>28</sup> Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. <sup>29</sup> For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

**2** 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, <sup>2</sup> 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, <sup>3</sup> in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. <sup>4</sup>I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments. <sup>5</sup> 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.

1.	What is your definition of a mystery? What is something in your life that you have found a
	mystery?

2. What was the source of Paul's joy in verses 24-25?

3. Twice, Paul refers to a mystery. To what is he referring? Where and how has the mystery been revealed?





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4.	The risen life of Jesus is the source of the church's hope. How have you experienced the hop of glory in your life (verse 27)?
5.	From verses 1-5, sum up Paul's joys and concerns for the Colossians.
6.	According to Paul's words in verses 2-3, Jesus is the key to unlocking the mystery of God. How can we practically seek out wisdom and understanding in Jesus?
7.	Paul indicates in verse 4 that people are going to try to deceive the new Christians with arguments that sound plausible but are in fact designed to lead them astray. What would protect the Christians from these lies? What are some of today's "plausible arguments" which can deceive Christians?
8.	Where in this passage do you see that the work of Jesus is GREATER THAN all else?



