

Colossians 1:24-2:5,

Questions

1. What goal has been compelling enough to make you willing to suffer to reach it?
2. Are you willing to suffer for others? When you suffer for the sake of Jesus Christ do you rejoice in that?
3. Have you ever personally suffered for being a Christian? Describe that experience.
4. Read Colossians 1:24—2:5. How does Paul define God's commission to him (vv. 24-29)?
5. In the New Testament, the term *mystery* refers not to something mysterious, but to something previously hidden which God now wishes to make clear. What is the mystery that represents the "word of God in its fullness" (1:26-27; 2:2-3)?
6. Why would this mystery be startling to both Jews and Gentiles in the Colossian church?
7. According to verse 27, who is responsible for the former mystery now being made known?
8. Do you believe that God reveals everything about himself to all people? Read Deuteronomy 29:29. Do you believe that God reveals certain things to specific people that he may not reveal to others? Read Psalm 25:14, Proverbs 3:32.
9. Why would having "Christ in you" be such a profound teaching? (Consider the description of Christ you studied in Colossians 1:15-20.)
10. How does Paul's ultimate goal include more than just disclosing a mystery (1:28)?
11. In addition to prayer (1:9), what means does Paul use to achieve that goal (vv. 28-29)?
Which of these means has God used to help you toward maturity in Christ?
12. According to Paul, what are the marks of Christian maturity (2:2-5)?
13. The Gnostics taught that their secret knowledge was the key to salvation. How would Paul's description of Christ (2:3-4) protect the Colossians from the "fine-sounding arguments" of the Gnostics?
14. What "fine-sounding arguments" today lure us away from Christ and hinder our spiritual maturity?
15. What can you do to refocus your attention on Christ and on his goals for you?