



## PART 5: THE HIDDEN MYSTERY

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### Sermon Notes

**Text: Colossians 1:24-2:5**

#### Intro:

Paul transitions from his introduction toward the bulk of his content by explaining his own ministry.

#### v. 24

Paul suffers on behalf of the church, in order to carry forward the mission of Christ (see Phil 3:20; Rom 8:10).

To see a greater move of God among us, it will continue to require sacrifice and suffering.

#### v. 25-27

Paul's job is to present the word of God in its fullness. This doesn't just mean explaining it; it means letting loose its power on the world.

Colossians 1:6; Isaiah 55:10-11

Paul was revealing a hidden mystery - that God's promises to Israel can be experienced by the whole world through Jesus.

God's secret plan is not a timetable of events; it is a person.

#### v. 28-29

The goal of Paul's preaching is to produce Christian maturity.

He "strenuously contends" to achieve this goal - an athletic metaphor meant to convey intense effort. But his effort is empowered by the energy of Jesus.

#### 2:1-5

Paul explains all of this for two reasons:

1. To encourage the Colossian believers
2. To prevent them from being deceived

#### Conclusion:

3 Questions:

1. What is your calling?
2. What will it cost you?
3. Is Christ in you?

## Life Group Discussion

### Warm up:

1. Consider your own vocation (or former vocation if you're retired). How do you explain it to people? Is it the kind of job that outsiders understand? Did Paul's explanation of his ministry help you understand his job better?

### Study & Discussion:

1. What do you think it means to be "called"? How do you learn what you calling is?
2. Read Romans 8:14-30. This is a powerful passage on suffering, which can help us get a better understanding of Paul's meaning in Colossians 1:24.
  - What does this passage say about suffering? About salvation from that suffering?
  - How does our suffering fit in with the purposes of God (v. 28).
  - Do you see any other themes from this passage that relate to the themes in the passage from Sunday's sermon?
3. Read Isaiah 55:10-11; Romans 1:14-17; Hebrews 4:12-13. What do these passages have in common? They certainly support the idea that God's word is active, not passive. In what ways do they do this?

### Application:

1. What is your calling? If you can't articulate it, spend time this week praying about it, and ask a trusted friend to help you discern it.

### Prayer:

1. Pray for God to call people into his mission.
2. Other Requests
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