

Crash Course for Colossians
What Are Old Christians Good For?
January 18, 2009

Colossians 1:24-2:5

24 Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. 25 I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness— 26 the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints. 27 To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

28 We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. 29 To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.

2:1 I want you to know how much I am struggling for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally. 2 My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. 4 I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments. 5 For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how orderly you are and how firm your faith in Christ is.

Discussion Questions

Have you ever struggled to do something yourself, only to find out later you could have had help?

How did you feel after you found out?

Why do you think Paul jumps into an explanation of his ministry in this letter?

Does it seem to fit here?

Why or why not?

Remembering that this is a new church filled with new Christians, what do you think is one of the greatest needs of the church?

How do these words of Paul address that?

Should Christians rely on others to help them grow in their faith? Is there any biblical basis for the idea that Christians should find mentors or spiritual guides to help them grow in their faith?

How can a mentee benefit from having a mentor?

How can a mentor benefit from having a mentee?

What can't a mentor do?

What will you do with this challenge to be a mentor/mentee?