

**PRESS ON  
IN CONFIDENCE**

**A STUDY IN PHILIPPIANS AND COLOSSIANS**

**LESSON 21 COLOSSIANS 1:24-2:5**

1. What was most meaningful for you from last week's study of **Colossians 1:19-23**? Explain.
  
  2. Pray and ask for God's guidance as you read **Colossians 1:24-2:5** where He unveils some of His mysteries.  
Note: As you continue to read this letter, keep in mind that Paul was exposing the false teaching that salvation is achieved by secret knowledge available only to an exclusive group of spiritual elites.
  3. a) What do you think Paul was saying in **V24**, given he was writing from prison (**Colossians 4:3**)?  
  
b) Review **1:23b** with **1:25**. How did Paul identify himself and his role in these verses, and how did he come to be in this position?
  
  4. From the following verses, give specifics about the three mysteries that Paul has disclosed, and take time to express what each one means to you personally:  
**1:26**  
  
**1:27**  
  
**2:2-3**
  
  5. Read **Ephesians 3:4-6**. How might Jewish people react to the disclosure of the mystery of Christ? How might Gentiles react differently?
- 
-

6. a) In **2:1-2**, for whom was Paul contending, and what warms your heart about his stated goal?
- b) For what person or group are you inspired to pray **V2**? Be specific.
7. a) Look through **1:28-2:5** and find the phrase “so that” for a further window into why Paul was contending and laboring for the church. What are the three reasons he gave?
- 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
- b) Which of these resonates most with you? How are you laboring in a similar way for your family, church or other believers?
8. Why do you think it is important to have the goals of ministry in mind as you or others work hard in the Lord?
9. What goals are you working toward in your life, and how do they compare to the goals of work in the Lord?
10. It's one thing to start out with clear goals, and it's another thing to finish well.
- a) What were the goals of Jesus (**John 17:4**) and Paul (**2 Timothy 4:7**) as they neared the end of their lives?
  - b) Read **2 Corinthians 8:11** and **Galatians 6:9**. In what situation do these verses encourage you to press on in confidence?

- 
11. Re-read **2:4**. Paul worked hard to refute the “fine-sounding arguments” that salvation is only for the few who have secret knowledge. What are some of the deceptive “fine-sounding arguments” of our day that you come up against, and how are you attempting to respond?
12. In order to *press on in confidence*,
- How does **1:29** reorient you for a particular circumstance in your life?
  - Re-read **2:5**. Share about someone who you (like Paul) are taking delight in his or her discipline and in how they are standing firm in the faith.
- 
- 

### DIGGING DEEPER

- Paul often encouraged and thanked his co-laborers who were working hard in the Lord, enduring much hardship. How or why are you to work hard in the Lord according to these verses?
  - Ecclesiastes 9:10a**
  - 1 Corinthians 4:12**
  - 1 Corinthians 15:58**
  - Philippians 2:30**
- After reading **Romans 16:6, 12** and **1 Thessalonians 5:12-13**, what will you do to encourage someone who works hard in ministry?
- Write out the Suggested Memory Verse: **Colossians 2:2**
  - Form a prayer inspired by Paul's words to the Colossians.

**NAME**

**PRAYER REQUEST**